皇國の守護者
壱
原作 佐藤大輔
漫画 伊藤悠
集英社
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長らく大平を謳歌していた島国〈皇国〉。

その最北端・北領に突如、超大国〈帝国〉の軍隊が押し寄せる。

〈帝国〉が誇る戦車とエーリアの指揮する精鋭部隊の前に、為す術なく潰走する〈皇国〉軍。

剣牙虎の干早とともに、圧倒的軍勢に立ち向かう兵站将校・新城直衛。

殊勲甲を獲得し国を救えるのか!?

佐藤大輔・原作の巨大戦記。

俊英・作画陣が描く待望の漫画化!!

★イ[illegible]が購入[illegible]
価格反映なっ[illegible]
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# 皇国の守護者

壱

原作 佐藤大輔
漫画 伊藤悠

集英社

サーベルタイガーズ
## 剣虎兵、絶望の雪原を駆ける!

超大国〈帝国〉の軍靴の響く〈皇国〉最北端の地・北満を蹂躙する!
雪原に展開される純粋な暴力の情景の中、兵站将校・新城直衛は絶望に立ち向かうが…!?
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機械が押し寄せる。
〈帝国〉が誇る戦術ユーリアの指揮する
精鋭部隊の前に、為す術なく
制定する〈皇国〉軍。
剣牙虎の十字ととともには剣乱軍務に
立ち向かう兵站将校・新城直衛は、
蹂躙される祖国を救えるのか!?
佐藤大輔、原作の初漫画化。
俊英・伊藤悠、渾身の描き下ろし!

近衛部隊、皇宮へ進撃! 皇都動乱、遂に決着!!

『皇国の守護者9 皇統はためくもとで』

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2005年3月27日(日)

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# 皇國の守護者

原作 佐藤大輔
漫画 伊藤 悠

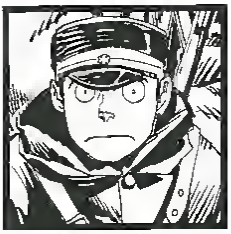
# 登場人物紹介

**2ND LT ISHIDA**

RESPECTS SINHJO A LOT
RESCUES DESERTERS

**CHIHAYA (TIGER)**

AN ELITE
SABERTOOTH TIGER
PARTNER OF SHINJO



**LIEUTENANT SHINJO NAOE**

PROTAGONIST SECOND COMPANY
SPECIALIZED IN THE HANDLING
OF SABERTOOTH TIGERS

**2ND LT HYODO**

2ND COMPANY'S SCOUT

**2ND LT URUSHIBARA**

2ND COMPANY 1ST
TROOP'S CHIEF

**SERGEANT MAJOR INOGUCHI**

REGULAR SMA
SHINJO'S VOICE
OF REASON

**KAMINSKY**

ROYAL ARMY
YOUNG COLONEL

**YULIA**

LEADER
OF THE
ROYAL
INVADING
TROOPS

**GENERAL MORIHARA**

GENERAL
OF ALL THE TROOPS IN
STATION IN HOKUREI

**COMMANDANT ITO**

CREATOR OF THE
TIGER BIRGADE
COMMANDER OF
THE 11TH ARMY

**CAPTAIN WAGANA**

2ND COMPANY'S
CAPTAIN OF TEN
IN CONFLICT WITH
SHINJO

# 目次


第一章

剣虎兵(セーブル・タイガース)1 3

剣虎兵2 49

剣虎兵3 89

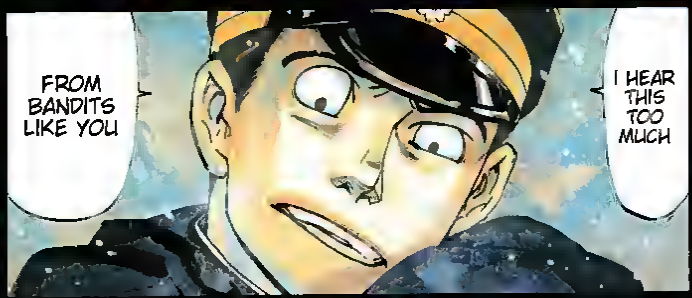
剣虎兵4 119

剣虎兵5 149

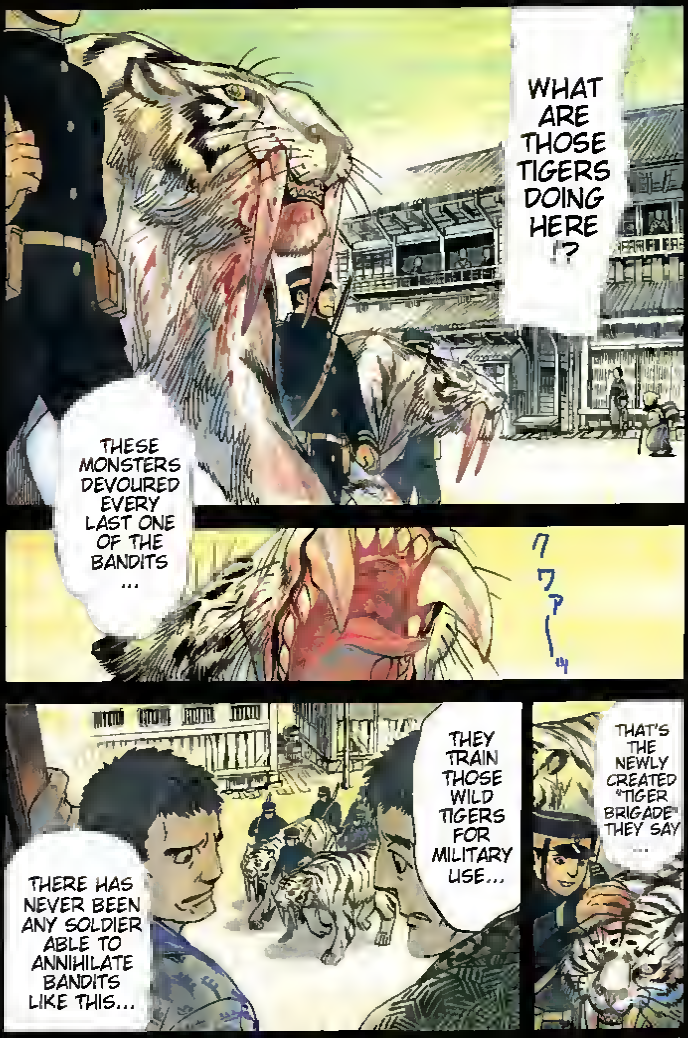
剣虎兵6 179


※この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには一切関係ありません。

I SUR-REN-DER !!
SO PLEASE, SPARE MY LIFE !!

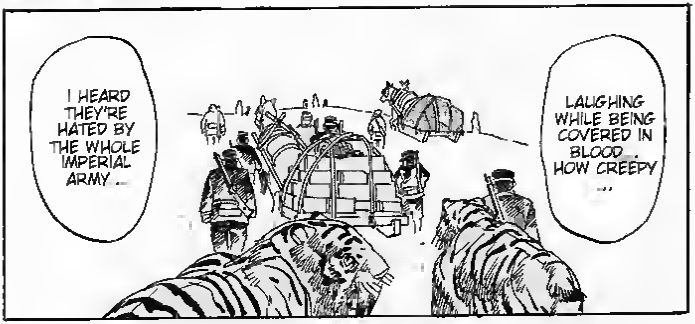

I HEAR THIS TOO MUCH
FROM BANDITS LIKE YOU

AH !!
HA AA !!
GA AA AH !!
AA AA AR GH !!
GW AA AA !!
AFTER WE BURN THEM, THE MISSION WILL BE OVER
NOW
第一章
サーベルタイガース
剣虎兵 1

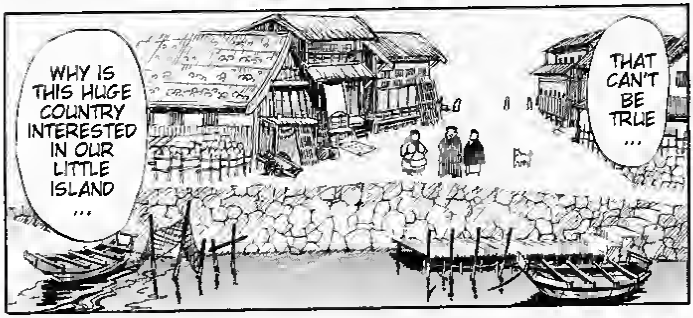

WHAT ARE THOSE TIGERS DOING HERE!?
THESE MONSTERS DEVOURED EVERY LAST ONE OF THE BANDITS ...
ワァー
THEY TRAIN THOSE WILD TIGERS FOR MILITARY USE...
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY SOLDIER ABLE TO ANNIHILATE BANDITS LIKE THIS...
THAT'S THE NEWLY CREATED "TIGER BRIGADE" THEY SAY ...

FROM HERE, WE WILL GO BACK TO THE NORTH FRONT
THEN WE CAN FINALLY RELAX
BY THE WAY, LIEU-TENANT SHINJO ...
DON'T WORRY
THEY DON'T EAT HUMAN FLESH ...
NO, I COULD NOT ...
THEN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME—
COULD YOU NOT...
AT LEAST TAKE ONE OF THEM ALIVE ...?

OF COURSE I LIED
YOU LIED, SENPAI
ONE OF THEM DID SURRENDER THOUGH...
YOU'RE BEING RUDE, 2ND LT ISHIDA
THAT GUY WAS HIDING A KNIFE ...
IT WASN'T IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE HIM ALIVE, BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PAIN
WE'LL BE CHEWED OUT BY THE COMMANDER OF THE NORTH
ALTHOUGH WE'VE BEEN GIVEN THE MISSION TO HUNT BANDITS ..

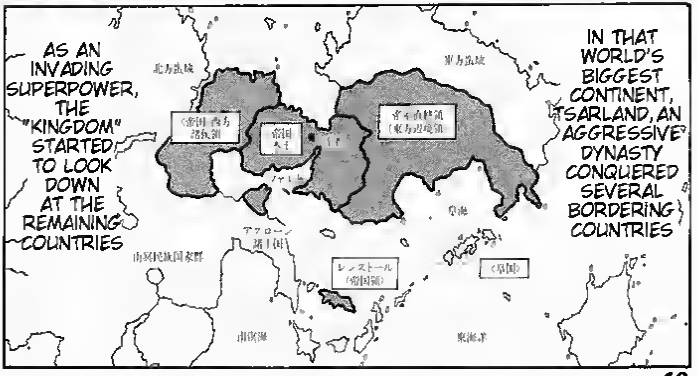

I HEARD THEY'RE HATED BY THE WHOLE IMPERIAL ARMY...
LAUGHING WHILE BEING COVERED IN BLOOD. HOW CREEPY...

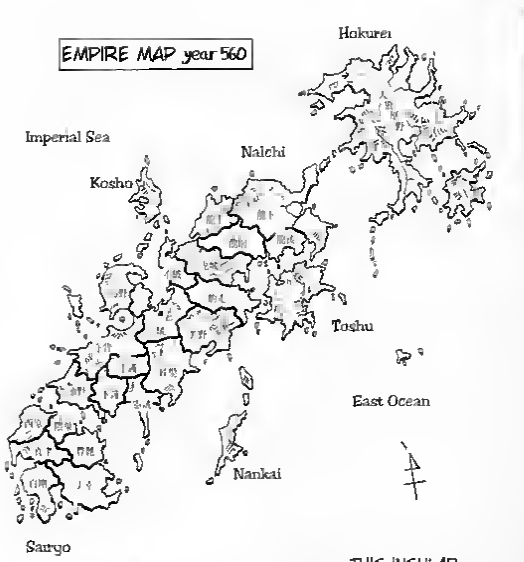
I EVEN HEARD THAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO BEAT THE "ROYAL" ARMIES
THAT'S RIGHT
THE SAME BANDITS WHO KILLED CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE ALIKE..
THEY REALLY DID GET RID OF THESE BANDITS...
BUT...


WHY IS THIS HUGE COUNTRY INTERESTED IN OUR LITTLE ISLAND...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...

WELL....
WHAT IS THAT?

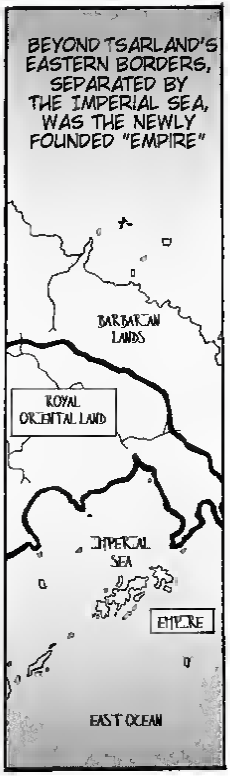
IT WAS CALLED THE "GRAND CODE"
IN TIME IMMEMORIAL EXISTED BETWEEN HUMANS AND DRAGONS A TREATY ESTABLISHING THE ORDER OF THE WORLD


AS AN INVADING SUPERPOWER, THE "KINGDOM" STARTED TO LOOK DOWN AT THE REMAINING COUNTRIES
IN THAT WORLD'S BIGGEST CONTINENT, "SARLAND, AN AGGRESSIVE" DYNASTY CONQUERED SEVERAL BORDERING COUNTRIES
北方辺境
東方辺境
帝国（西方辺境領）
帝国本土
帝国（東方辺境領）
アトリエ
魔海
アクロー諸国国
南国民族国家群
レンストール（帝国領）
（皇国）
南海洋
東海洋



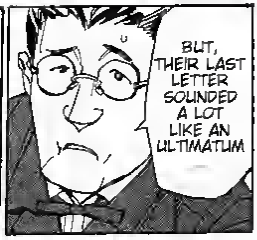

AND THIS "EMPIRE" WAS CONSIDERED AS JUST ONE MORE EASTERN TRIBE, OR "BARBARIANS", UNABLE TO THREATEN THE "KINGDOM" INFLUENCE

THIS INSULAR COUNTRY WAS FORMED BY 6 MAIN ISLANDS, HOKUREI (NORTH COUNTRY), NAICHI (MAINLAND) TOSHU (EAST REGION), KOSHO (IMPERIAL ISLAND), NANKAI (SOUTH LAND) AND SAIRYO (WEST COUNTRY)

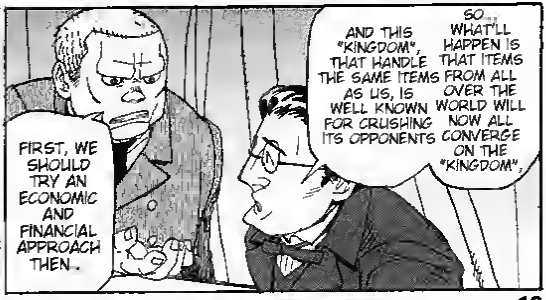

BEYOND TSARLAND'S EASTERN BORDERS, SEPARATED BY THE IMPERIAL SEA, WAS THE NEWLY FOUNDED "EMPIRE"
BARBARIAN LANDS
ROYAL ORIENTAL LAND
IMPERIAL SEA
EMPIRE
EAST OCEAN

[IMPERIAL CALENDER] YEAR 578 JANUARY 14TH
THE EMPIRE CAPITAL
AT THE VERY LEAST WE DIDN'T SUFFER ANY INVADING ATTACK THIS WINTER

THAT WILL ONLY RESULT IN US USING OUR "IMPERIAL" COASTERS TO KEEP TRANSPORTING GOODS AT A CHEAPER PRICE
YOU MEAN THAT BIT ABOUT "MONOPOLIZING SEA TRADE BY USING THEIR WARSHIP"?


BUT, THEIR LAST LETTER SOUNDED A LOT LIKE AN ULTIMATUM

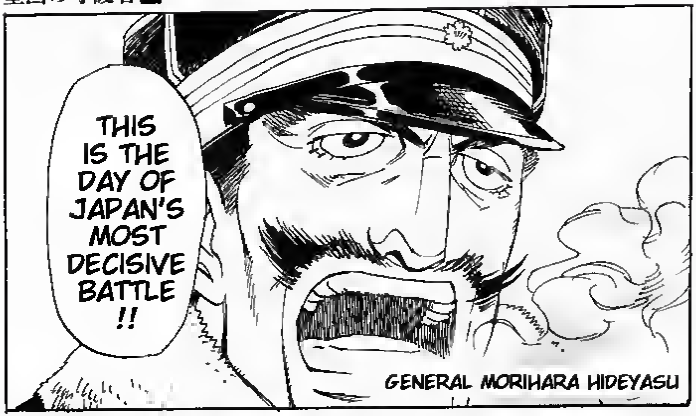
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS


FIRST, WE SHOULD TRY AN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL APPROACH THEN..
AND THIS "KINGDOM", THAT HANDLE THE SAME ITEMS AS US, IS WELL KNOWN FOR CRUSHING ITS OPPONENTS
SO... WHAT'LL HAPPEN IS THAT ITEMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL NOW ALL CONVERGE ON THE "KINGDOM".

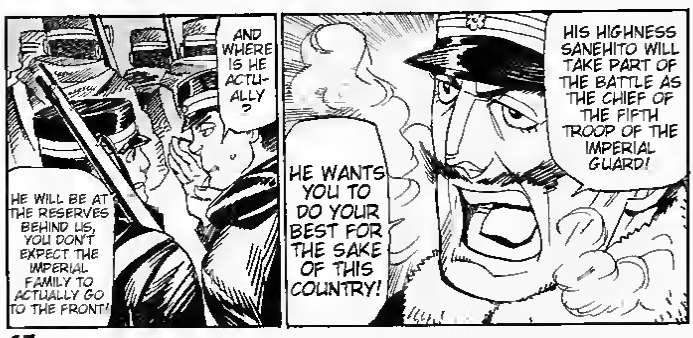
ANYWAY, I'VE SENT REINFORCEMENT IN HOKUREI, JUST IN CASE..
PARDON ME, SIR!!
TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THEY UTTERLY DETEST OUR COUNTRY...
A FLEET OF "ROYAL" WARSHIP JUST APPEARED OFF THE SHORE OF OKITSUWAN, IN HOKUREI!!
WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE!?
WITHOUT SENDING ANY DECLARATION OF WAR!?

Is this it?
What a beautiful country...

IT'S TOO SOON! WE WILL NEED DAYS TO PREPARE OUR DEFENSES ...
THE TENRO PLAINS
WE SHALL FIGHT THEM THERE ...
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO SEND SUPPORTING TROOPS OR TO CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF OUR ARMY STATIONING IN HOKUREI
WHO'S IN CHARGE THERE?
IT'S GENERAL MORIHARA!
TENRO PLAINS
Hokurei
Mainland
北後
BUT, IF THEY INVADE HOKUREI, THEN THE ENTIRE MAINLAND WILL BE IN DANGER!
IF IT'S HIM, THEN...
... YES
MAYBE WE COULD ENTRUST OUR HOPES TO HIM ...
JANUARY 28TH
HOKUREI TENRO PLAINS


THIS IS THE DAY OF JAPAN'S MOST DECISIVE BATTLE !!
GENERAL MORIHARA HIDEYASU

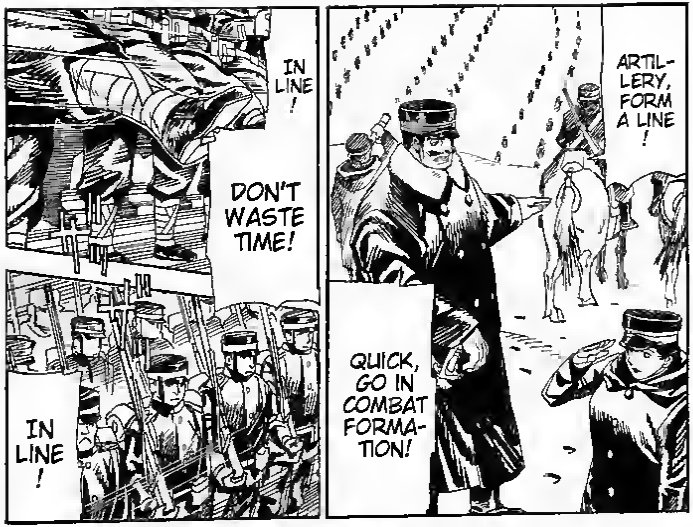
IF WE WERE TO FALL THOSE BASTARDS WILL USE THEM AS FRONTLINE TO INVADE THE MAINLAND!
BEHIND OUR BACKS ARE CITIES AND ALSO OUR STOCKS OF FOOD!!


HE WILL BE AT THE RESERVES BEHIND US, YOU DON'T EXPECT THE IMPERIAL FAMILY TO ACTUALLY GO TO THE FRONT!
AND WHERE IS HE ACTUALLY?
HE WANTS YOU TO DO YOUR BEST FOR THE SAKE OF THIS COUNTRY!
HIS HIGHNESS SANEHITO WILL TAKE PART OF THE BATTLE AS THE CHIEF OF THE FIFTH TROOP OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD!

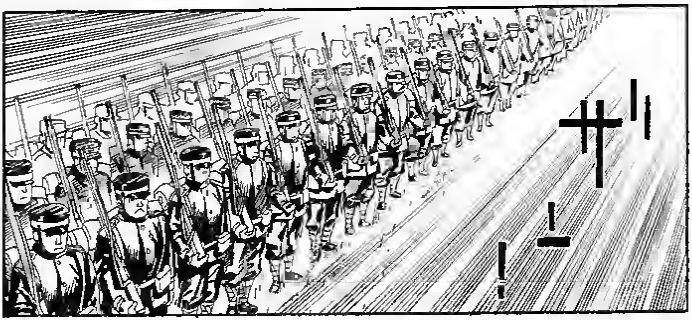
WE SHOULD COME IN CONTACT WITH THE ROYAL ARMY WITHIN THE NEXT THREE HOURS!
THE SEVEN ARTILLERY TROOPS OF THE HOKUREI ARMY WILL FORM A LINE
THE TWO CAVALRY REGIMENTS AND THE TWO GUNNER REGIMENTS WILL STAND RESPECTIVELY ON THE SIDES AND THE BACK OF THE ARTILLERY
BATTLE
CAVALRY
ARTILLERY X7
CAVALRY
GUNNER X2

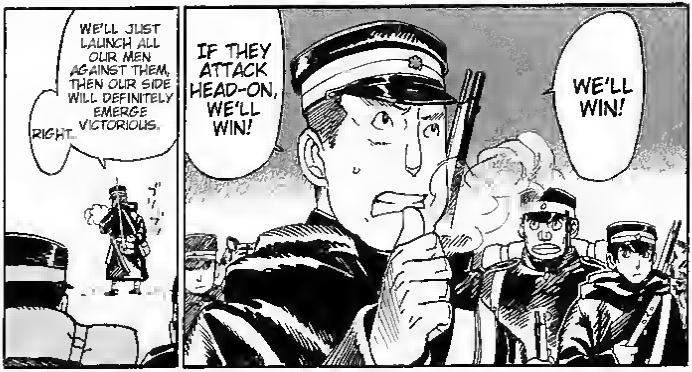
WHY THE HELL ARE WE ON STAND BY !?
"THE IMPERIAL GUARD AS WELL AS THE 11TH ARMY TIGER BRIGADE WILL BE WAITING IN THE BACK"

HE'S SURELY THINKING OF NOT USING THE IMPERIAL GUARD OR THE EXPERIENCED SOLDIERS
THAT GENERAL
WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 30,000 MEN, AND THE ROYAL TROOPS ARE ABOUT 22,000
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A BORING MISSION
HE'S GETTING ANGRY, OUR LITTLE CHIEF
IT MEANS THAT UNTIL THE END, MEN AND CATS WILL STAY ALIVE
THAT'S NOT A BAD THING
HERE THEY ARE, THE "KINGDOM" TROOPS

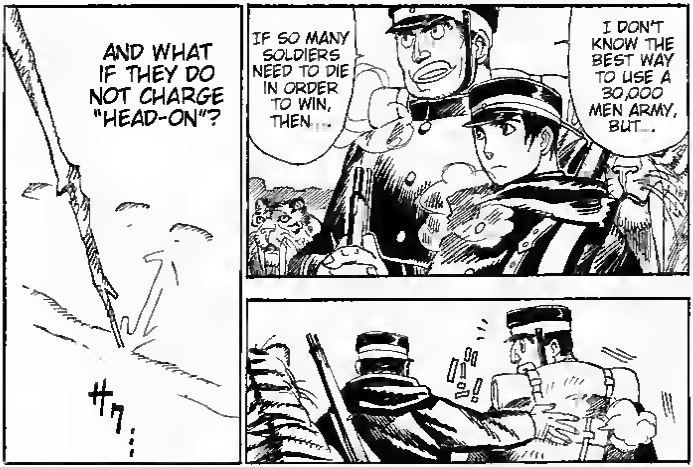

IN LINE!
DON'T WASTE TIME!
IN LINE!
ARTIL-LERY, FORM A LINE!
QUICK, GO IN COMBAT FORMA-TION!

THEY WILL NEED MORE TIME TO GO FROM A COLUMN FORMATION TO A LINE FORMATION
THEY'RE HERE SOONER THAN I THOUGHT! IS IT THANKS TO THEIR LIGHT GEAR? THOSE ROYAL BASTARDS,




WE'LL JUST LAUNCH ALL OUR MEN AGAINST THEM, THEN OUR SIDE WILL DEFINITELY EMERGE VICTORIOUS.
RIGHT.
IF THEY ATTACK HEAD-ON, WE'LL WIN!
WE'LL WIN!

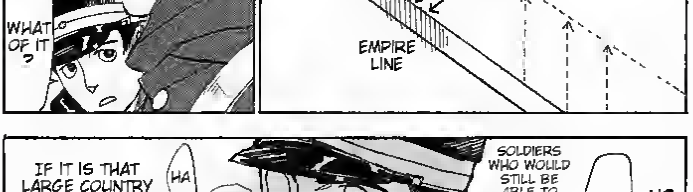
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SANDBAGS YOU USE, AS LONG AS IT KEEPS THE WATER FLOOD OUT."
"SPREAD OUT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN SO YOU'LL SERVE AS A ROADBLOCK


AND WHAT IF THEY DO NOT CHARGE "HEAD-ON"?
IF SO MANY SOLDIERS NEED TO DIE IN ORDER TO WIN, THEN...
I DON'T KNOW THE BEST WAY TO USE A 30,000 MEN ARMY, BUT...
#7...

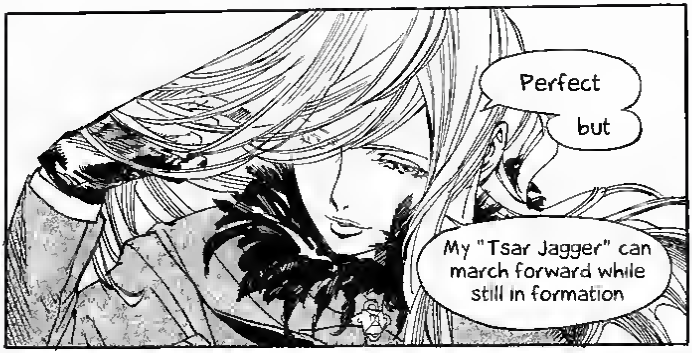
IF WITHOUT FORMING A STEADY LINE, THEY WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE OUR DEFENSES BY CONCENTRATING THEIR ASSAULT ON ONE POINT ONLY?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SENPAI?
IF THE ROYAL ARMY, WITHOUT CHANGING ITS FORMATION, WAS ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND ATTACK A SINGLE PRECISE POINT?

IF THEY'RE NOT THE SORT TO CHARGE "HEAD-ON"
WHAT OF IT?

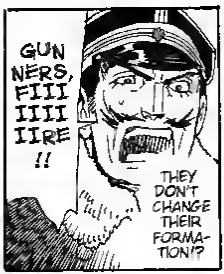
AND AS FOR WE
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE ON THEM
THEY'LL USE THE BLOCKS OF SOLDIERS, DEFENSELESS DURING THE FORMATION, AS A HUGE TARGET.
EMPIRE LINE


IF IT IS THAT LARGE COUNTRY - THAT BIG ARMY - THEY SHOULD HAVE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY AND TIME ON THIS KIND OF MILITARY EDUCATION
HA
SOLDIERS WHO WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT WHILE BEING SPREAD OUT AND THUS TOO FAR TO HEAR THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS
NO
NO WAY

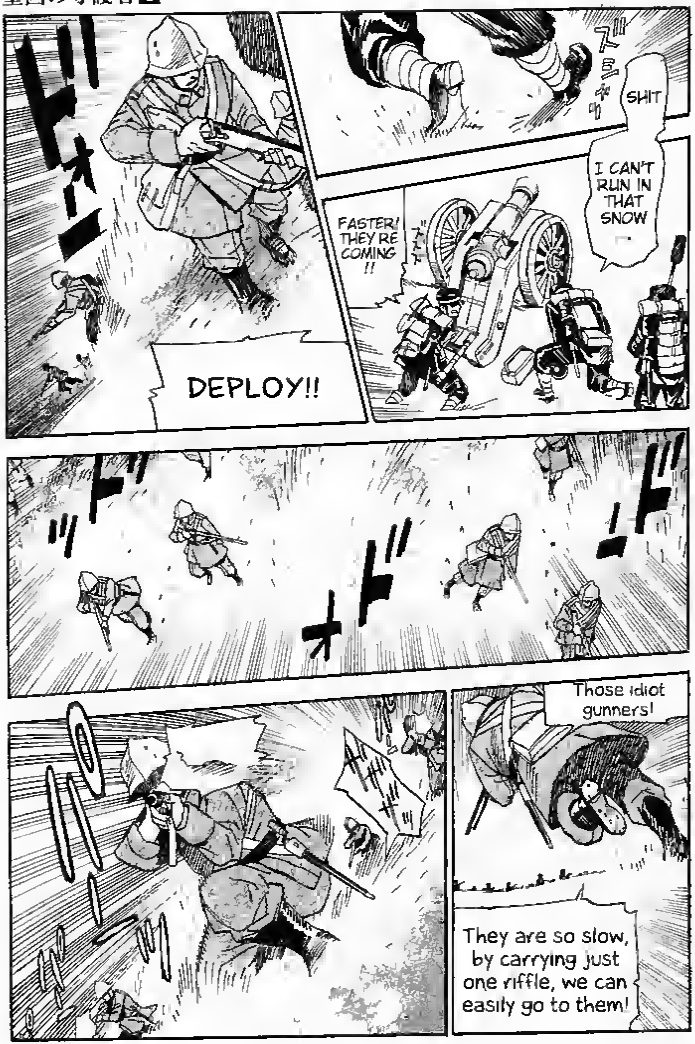
ドゴ ゴゴ
ドゴ ゴゴ
"ROYAL" CANONS HALF A MILE AHEAD!
THEY ARERE STILL ADVANCING!
HALF A MILE YOU SAID?
THEY HAVE A SHOOTING RANGE OF ONE MILE!

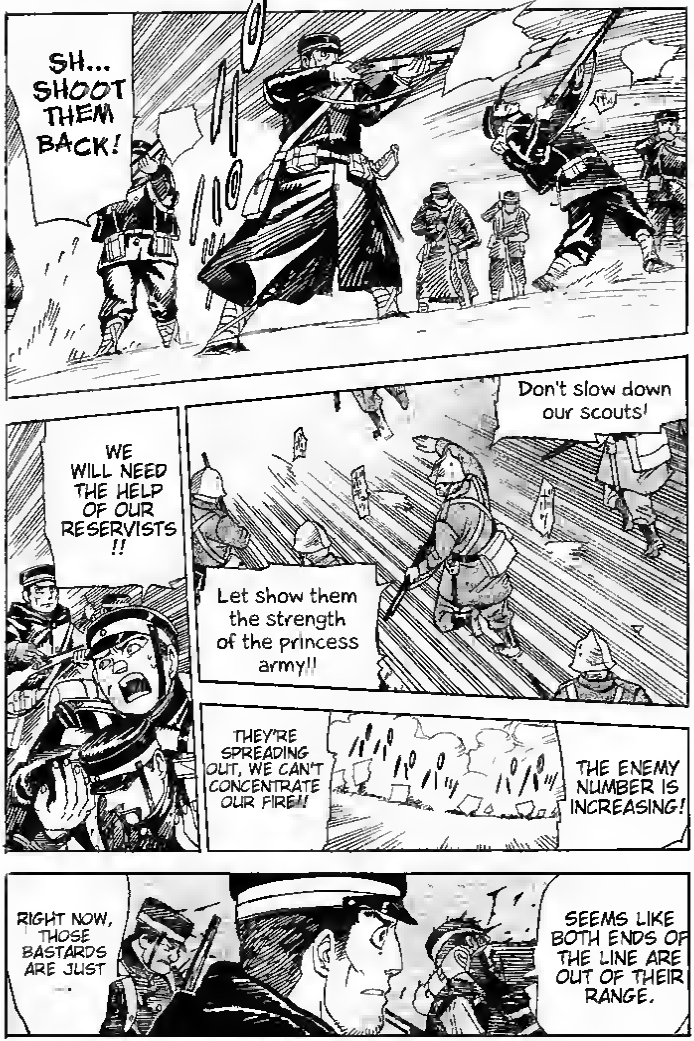

Perfect
but
My "Tsar Jagger" can march forward while still in formation

進行方向
中隊
大隊
北領鎮台横列
and deploy on both sides depending of the formation of the enemy line!


GUNNERS, FIIIIIIIRE!!
THEY DON'T CHANGE THEIR FORMATION!?

THEY... THEY'RE FAST!
THE "KINGDOM" INFANTRY LINE IS COMING TOWARD US!


ドォーン
ズシャ
SHIT
I CAN'T RUN IN THAT SNOW
FASTER! THEY'RE COMING !!
ズシャ
DEPLOY!!
ドドド


SH... SHOOT THEM BACK!
Don't slow down our scouts!
WE WILL NEED THE HELP OF OUR RESERVISTS !!
Let show them the strength of the princess army!!
THEY'RE SPREADING OUT, WE CAN'T CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE!!
THE ENEMY NUMBER IS INCREASING!
RIGHT NOW, THOSE BASTARDS ARE JUST ...
SEEMS LIKE BOTH ENDS OF THE LINE ARE OUT OF THEIR RANGE.

... CONCENTRATING THEIR FIRE ON ONE POINT OF OUR DEFENSES ...
YOU STEPPED INTO OUR COUNTRY WITHOUT EVEN REMOVING YOUR SHOES, WITHOUT SENDING ANY DECLARATION OF WAR...
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE WARRIOR'S HONOR... YOU BASTARDS ARE THE TRUE BARBARIANS
What did this guy say?

"Bushido" something..
Seems to be the motto of those poor bastards who couldn't protect their own country
REIN-FORCE-MENTS ARE COMING!
GO FIX THE DAMAGES TO THE LINE, ASAP!!
BUT... THE SNOW IS...
ドオオ!
AND SINCE OUR WHOLE ARMY IS IN LINE FORMATION, WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO CHANGE DIRECTION..

URHG THEY'RE SHOOTING THE INFANTRY FROM BEHIND
THOSE BASTARDS, THEY EVEN USE GRENADES
ドドドド
ヨオー
Let's get this over with

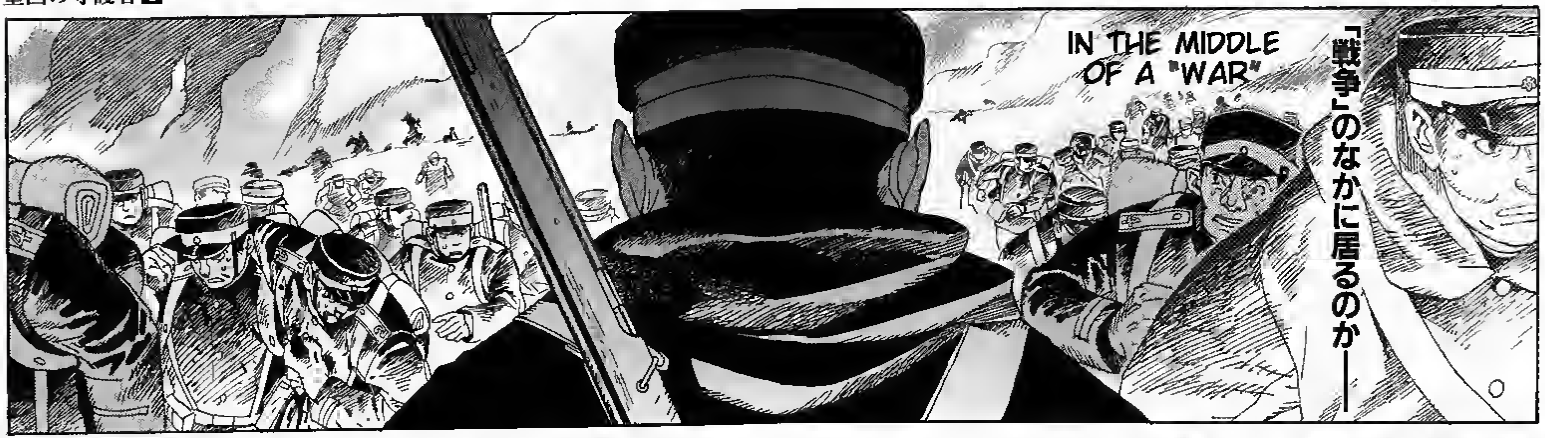
CAVALRY REGIMENT CHAAAAARGE!!
HUR-RAH!
CHAAARGE!!
SOUND THE CHARGE!

HURRAH!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!
HURRAH!
HURRAH FOR THE KINGDOM!!

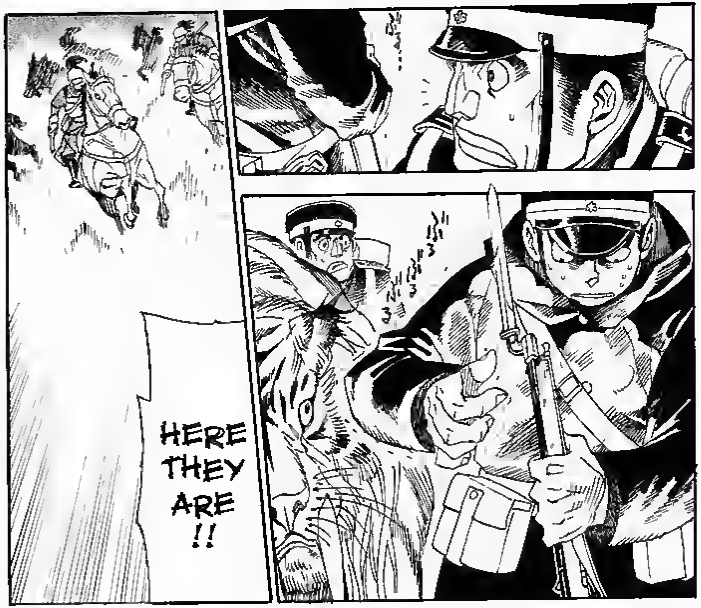
HURRAH FOR TSAR!! HURRAH FOR THE KINGDOM!!
WAAAAAAAAAAA
waaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

THEY WILL ...
IF WE DON'T PROTECT THIS COUNTRY ....
IF THEY TAKE HOKUREI, THEY'LL INVADE THE MAINLAND
DON'T RUN! DON'T RUN!!
DID THEY REALLY PENETRATE OUR DEFENSES?
IT SEEMS... THEY WEREN'T THE SORT TO ATTACK BLINDLY HEAD-ON AFTER ALL ...

IN THIS MESS, YOU HAVE TO TAKE COMMAND, CAPTAIN!
CAP... CAPTAIN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...
DEFEND? RETREAT?
DON'T ASK ME! WITHOUT...
WITHOUT THE GENERAL'S ORDERS I CAN'T DECIDE ON MY OWN!
RIGHT NOW, I AM...
THE ENEMY IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!!
THAT'S IT


IN THE MIDDLE OF A "WAR"
「戦争」のなかに居るのか——

SOL-DIERS! FIX BAYONET!
RI... RIGHT! EVERY-ONE FIX BAYO-NET!
INSIDE THAT CONFUSION, WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO RELOAD OUR RIFFLE
DON'T WASTE YOUR BULLETS ON DESERTERS!
ガチャ
チャ


HERE THEY ARE!!

突
CHARGE
撃

A KID !!
— SHIN-JO !!

I JUST DISPOSED OF SOME JUNK...
UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE SITTING HERE AND SULK, THEN STAND UP
BECAUSE FROM NOW ON, WE'RE AT WAR

# 皇國の守護者

Notes:

When talking about "Tsarland", the character are actually using the word "Teikoku", which means "the Empire", as in "The Roman Empire" but the word "Koukoku", from the title, also means "Empire", as it refers to the old name of the Japanese Empire.

I could not translate both words the same way, since it would have been confusing, so I decided to translate the "Teikoku" as "Kingdom", but bear in mind that they're actually two empires, Tsarland, I'm sure, refers to Russia

Also, the "Imperial Guard" mentionned p17 and onward is litterally the personnal soldiers of the Emperor, whereas the title "Imperial Guards" could also be translated as "Protectors of the Empire", but the official translation seems to be "Emperial Guards", so...

Lastly... Saber-tooth Tigers... How Fucking cool is that!?

A Milky Translation Release

WA AA AA AA
TAKE COVER!!
Sabertooth TIGERS 2
THIS IS UNEXCEPTABLE AS COMMANDER OF THIS GARRISON, I CANNOT ALLOW US TO DESPERSE
!!!
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY
WE NEED TO ENSURE HIS MAJESTY BRIGADIER GENERAL, PRINCE SANEHITO'S SAFE--

THE ROYAL FORCES WILL BE HERE SOON!!
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A PRINCE WHO'S OH THE RESERVES?!
THEY ARE JUST TWO MILES AWAY FROM HERE. WE NEED TO ESCAPE!
BURN ALL DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS IN THE COMMAND CENTER BEFORE RETREATING!
MAKE SURE TO NOT OVERLOOK ANYTHING RELATED TO "DOUJUTSU"

THIS IS A WAR, AFTER ALL
PLEASE STAND UP...
LET'S RETREAT AT ONCE AND REJOIN THE MAIN BATTALION
THE ENEMY'S PURSUIT IS CLOSING UP
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING... BUT I'LL STAND UP!
T...THAT'S RIGHT! THE DOUJUTSU SOLDIERS!
IT SHOULD WORK THIS TIME!

I CAN'T SEEM TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION FROM THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS DUE TO ALL THIS CONFUSION, THERE'S TOO MANY MESSAGES COMING IN!
THE COMMANDER IS ALSO SILENT
WHERE'S THE MAIN BATTALION HEAD-QUARTERS?!
CAN YOU CONTACT THEM?!
PLEASE WAIT!
THE WAVES ARE ALL JUMBLED TOGETHER IN THIS CHAOS
THE COMMAND BUILDING HAS BEEN DESTROYED

His excellency commander in chief Morihara has fled...
HER STOMACH HAS BEEN BADLY HURT THAT PERSON IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME
THAT'S THE COMMANDER'S ADJUTANT! SHE HAS BEEN ABANDONED!
You should quickly escape as well
The Royal Army's pursuit will soon be here
PLEASE DON'T WOR-RY
MISS ADJUTANT, WE WILL PROTECT YOU!

I WONDER IF WE CAN ESCAPE WHILE BRINGING THAT NEAR DEAD PERSON ALONG
SERIOUSLY? THE COM-MANDER IS...
IF THE ADJUTANT SURVIVES, IT'LL BE GOOD FOR TROOP MORALE
I'LL GO CALL THE MEDICAL CORPS
I WONDER IF HE IS EARNING A FEW POINTS OR SOME-THING
Tch...

THIS PERSON IS DEAD-WEIGHT NOW
COM-PANY COM-MANDER!
IF WE BRING HER WITH US, WE WILL BE CAUGHT UP WITH
IF WE DON'T TREAT THIS WOUND, SHE WILL ONLY BE A BURDEN UNTIL SHE DIES
I'M EXTREMELY SORRY, ADJUTANT
SHINJO, Y-YOU IDIOT! APOL-OGIZE!
THE BEST YOU CAN!

That's... correct
Are you...
A hum--
CALL THE COM-PANY COMM-ANDER
Fufu... BUT WHAT COLD EYES

Maybe... if I met you... in another...
BUT THAT'S JUST A RESULT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
...it ...it's cold
SHE'S PASSED

ENEMIES ARE COMING FROM BEHIND!
AS EXPECTED, THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE ADJUTANT
SHE LED OUR ENEMIES HERE!
THEY WILL REACH US IN ONE HOUR
A-AT ANY RATE WHAT CAN WE DO
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE SOMEHOW
WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT OUR PURSUERS?
2ND LIEUTENANT ISHIDA!
YES!

YOUR SQUAD WILL MARCH AHEAD FOR SIX MORE HOURS, AND THEN YOU WILL HOLD THE PURSUERS BACK
THESE ARE YOUR ORDERS! PASS THEM AHEAD!
WHAT THE HELL...
THE HIGHER UPS ARE AFRAID OF DYING AND SENDING US JUST TO STALL THE ENEMY?
He is dissatisfied with Saitate's squad's positioning
And if a battalion is lost, it's the commander's fault
I WONDER IF WE WILL GET SOME SORT OF TITLE FOR STOPPING THE PURSUERS
IT SEEMS THAT CAPTAIN WAKANA HAS...
BEEN SACRIFICED

TO SUPPORT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS IN THE BATTLEFRONT
2ND LIEUTENANT ISHIDA AND UP TO 28 OTHER SOLDIERS WILL ADVANCE FROM HERE
ARE YOU REMEMBERING SOMETHING?
SEMPAI
SHE WAS A LIVELY WOMAN WASN'T SHE?
LOOK! WHAT A CHARMING, AMAUTERISH PERSON!
THAT WOMAN FROM KAIDOUYA!

NO MATTER WHAT...
WE CANNOT ALLOW THE INVASION TO REACH THE CAPITAL WHERE SHE LIVES
HOW AWFUL, ISHIDA
AT BEST, THE FIRST LIEUTENANT WILL NOT MOVE
NO
No, Lieutenant Shinjo...
Hokurei Garrison will not fall
WELL, SENPAI...
I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU

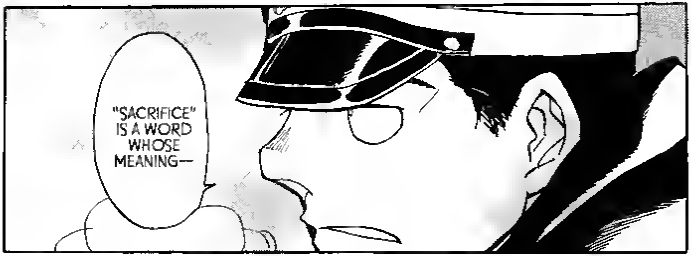
This
Country...

2ND LIEUTENANT ISHIDA WENT TO BATTLE THE ROYAL ARMY'S PURSUING TROOPS...
WE WILL SURPRISE THEIR CAVALRY WITH OUR SABERTOOTH TIGERS AND PUT THEIR FORMATION IN DISARRAY
RIGHT!
THE DOUJUTSU SQUAD SHOULD KEEP INFORMING OUR CURRENT SITUATION

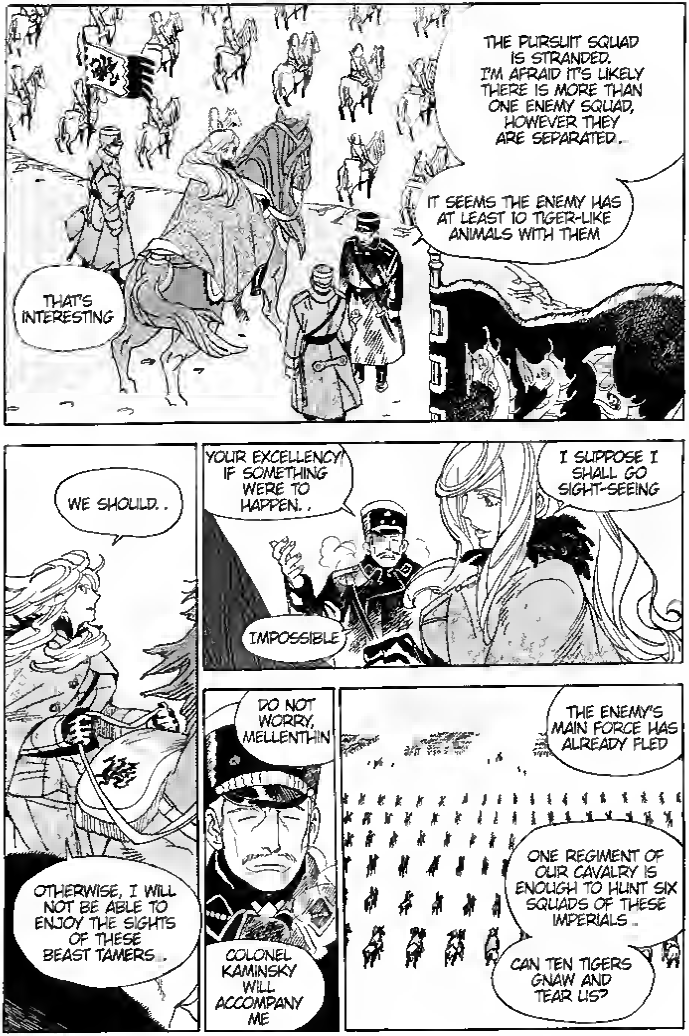
LIEU-TENANT SHIN-JO!
MAKE THAT BEAST SHUT UP!!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT SEEMS WE WILL GET SOME USE OUT OF THE DOUJUSQUAD AND THE SABERSQUAD
CHIHAYA
QUIET...
HURRY UP!
COM-MANDER
I'M DEEPLY SORRY FOR THE ANNOYANCE

EVEN THE CATS

HOW WILL ISHIDA AND INTETSU FULFILL THEIR ORDER?
I KNOW IT
HE'S NOT WORRIED
CHIHAYA THINKS SO
I WONDER IF 2ND LIEUTENANT ISHIDA'S INTETSU IS WORRIED

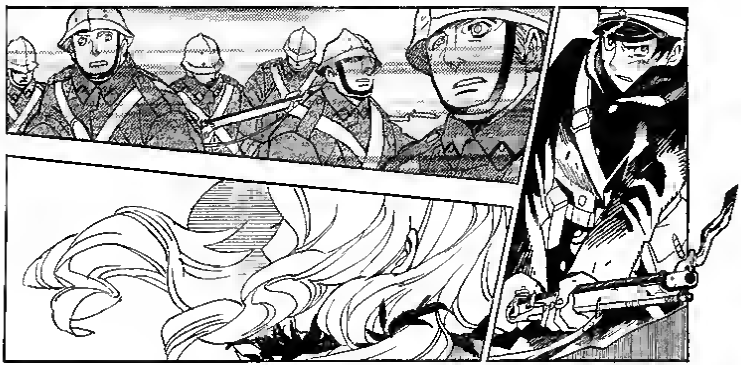

"SACRIFICE" IS A WORD WHOSE MEANING—

A WILD ANIMAL TAMER?
HOW SUITABLE FOR THIS LAND OF BARBARIANS


THAT'S INTERESTING
IT SEEMS THE ENEMY HAS AT LEAST 10 TIGER-LIKE ANIMALS WITH THEM
THE PURSUIT SQUAD IS STRANDED. I'M AFRAID IT'S LIKELY THERE IS MORE THAN ONE ENEMY SQUAD, HOWEVER THEY ARE SEPARATED..
WE SHOULD..
OTHERWISE, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SIGHTS OF THESE BEAST TAMERS..
YOUR EXCELLENCY, IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN..
IMPOSSIBLE
I SUPPOSE I SHALL GO SIGHT-SEEING
DO NOT WORRY, MELLENTHIN
COLONEL KAMINSKY WILL ACCOMPANY ME
THE ENEMY'S MAIN FORCE HAS ALREADY FLED
ONE REGIMENT OF OUR CAVALRY IS ENOUGH TO HUNT SIX SQUADS OF THESE IMPERIALS..
CAN TEN TIGERS GNAW AND TEAR US?

BECAUSE THEY WILL ALL BECOME CORPSES
Ugh
G...
G...
Go!

DON'T SHOOT! YOU'RE HITTING...



IT CAN'T BE!

A THREE-HEADED DRAGON! THE ROYAL FAMILY'S CREST..... THAT'S...
THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN INVADERS!
HOW MANY
ARE STILL ALIVE?!
NO, THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
WHY IS SHE ON THIS BATTLEFIELD...
IF I CAN CRUSH THEIR HEADS

THERE'S NO WAY TO ESCAPE
NOR ARE THERE ANY SURVIVING SOLDIERS OR CATS
BAH!
INI ET SU!

AS I THOUGHT, CATS DO NOT DIE IN VAIN...
CHIHAYA IS WAITING

Geh!

COME

HMPH
INTETSU!!

ホ...
ホ...
ホ...
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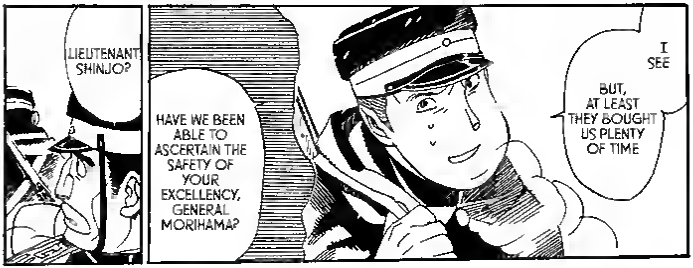
FARE-WELL...
YOU... WHO WERE THE LAST BRAVE BARBARIAN WARRIORS TO NEITHER RUN AWAY NOR SCATTER
BY NEXT MORNING.
THE TIGER WILL BE DEAD
THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN USED AS A SACRIFICE SO THEIR SUPERIORS COULD ESCAPE
THEY DID A FINE DISPLAY AS A SACRIFICE..
THEY WILL NOT SUFFER

STILL...
ALIVE!
THAT MAN WILL...
Shi-
LIEUTENANT SHINJO NAOE WILL...

LIEUTENANT?
I DON'T BELIEVE A LIEUTENANT CAN HAVE ANY IMPACT ON A WAR
SHINJO
NAOE...
THE MAN YOU PUT ALL YOUR HOPE ON?
IT IS GOOD TO HEAR THE NAME OF THOSE WHO WILL CRUSH YOU
I AM THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORY SUPPRESSION ARMY SUPREME COMMANDER, ROYAL ARMY MARSHAL...
PRINCESS OF THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORY YUUJA DO VIRNA TSARITSA ROSHINA

CHIHAYA, COME!

ISHIDA'S SQUAD HAS BEEN WIPED OUT
THE SECOND LIEUTENANT HAS ALSO BEEN KILLED IN ACTION


LIEUTENANT SHINJO?
HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE SAFETY OF YOUR EXCELLENCY, GENERAL MORIHAMA?
I SEE
BUT, AT LEAST THEY BOUGHT US PLENTY OF TIME

I SEE
WHEN WE WERE KIDS, STILL IN SCHOOL, HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON THAT TOOK ME TO A RED LIGHT DISTRICT
I ALSO TAUGHT HIM HOW TO GET ALONG WITH CATS
IT WAS ALL IN VAIN
TRANS-MISSION...
THE FIFTH BRIGADE OF THE IMPERIAL GUARDS HAS NOT INCURRED ANY LOSSES AND IS GOING STRONG
THE REAR GUARD SHALL RESUME COMBAT
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHERE ARE THE TROOPS LED BY HIS HIGHNESS SANEHITO?
THEY
HE'S EXHAUSTED FROM USING HIS MENTAL ENERGY FOR SO LONG
PLEASE LET HIM REST, COMPANY COMMANDER
IN THAT CASE WHOSE HAND CAN WE HOLD? WHOSE SHOULDER CAN WE LEAN ON?
WHAT'S THE SITTUATION...
IT IS A LOSING BATTLE IF HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHT

第一章

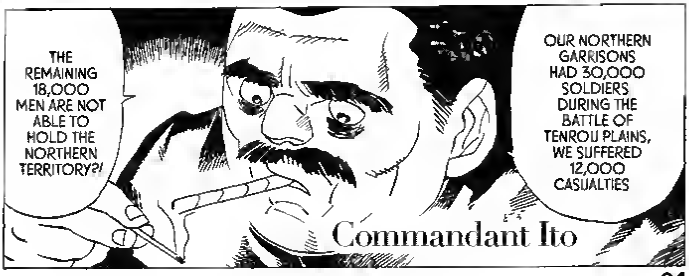
サーベルタイガース

# 剣虎兵 3

THE HORSES HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND
THIS GUY DIDN'T EVEN CARRY A GUN
THE CAVALRY WAS...
COMPLETELY FROZEN, BLEEDING, AND WEAKENED
I'M GUESSING THEY RAN AWAY
THEY BARELY ESCAPED ALIVE FROM...
TENROU PLAINS

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE HAD FOUND OUR ALLIES!
I'M CERTAIN THE BATTALION HEAD-QUARTERS ARE BURNING
AAH I BELIVE WE SHOULD HURRY AHEAD

FEBRUARY 9, 7AM
11TH BATTALION MAIN HEADQUARTERS, "TEMPLE OF THE OPEN MIND" MAIN HALL
SABERTOOTH SQUAD INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


THE REMAINING 18,000 MEN ARE NOT ABLE TO HOLD THE NORTHERN TERRITORY?!
OUR NORTHERN GARRISONS HAD 30,000 SOLDIERS DURING THE BATTLE OF TENROU PLAINS, WE SUFFERED 12,000 CASUALTIES
Commandant Ito

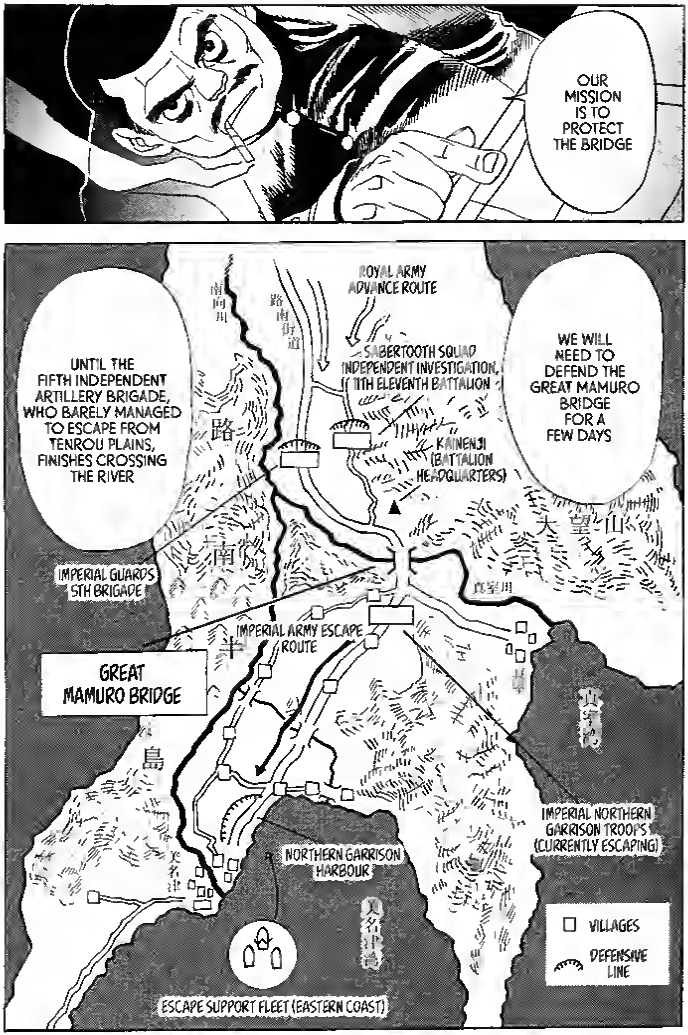
IT'S POSSIBLE TO REPEL THEM!
IF OUR 18,000 MEN FACE THEM WITH UNFALTERING WILL
HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE 22,000 MEN DEPLOYED BY OUR ENEMIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY UNHARMED...
DO YOU THINK THAT HUMANS CAN FACE DEATH AND LOSS AS IF IT'S NOTHING AT ALL?
I WONDER IF OUR SOLDIERS CAN SHOW SUCH WILL AFTER LOSING A BATTLE...
CAPTAIN WAGANA?
MOREOVER, HOW MUCH ARE WE WILLING TO LOSE
.....
EVEN IF THEIR NUMBER IS INFERIOR, THEIR SOLDIERS ALSO SHOW GREAT WILL TO FIGHT, DO YOU THINK WE CAN STILL CONFRONT THEM?
BUT, WHAT IF I SAID THE SO-CALLED "BARBARIAN SUPPRESSION"'S MORALE IS ALSO HIGH, AND

AND IT DOESN'T SEEM YOU KNOW THAT THE ROYAL ARMY REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED
THEIR SECOND BATALLION SURE TOOK YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE HERE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
OUR ENEMIES ARE 40,000 MEN STRONG NOW

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR FORCES ARE AT LEAST 6 TO 1!
I WILL SAY IT ONCE AGAIN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY CANNOT BE DEFENDED THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE
.....!
THIS ISN'T SIMPLY AN ISSUE OF NUMBERS, READYNESS, OR MORALE.
THEIR FORCES HAVE DOUBLED!!

THE COMMANDER OF OUR MAIN GARRISONS HAS ALREADY LEFT THE VANGUARD AND RETREATED
TO MOVE OUT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES HMPH WE ARE RETREATING
A FLEET IS COMING TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

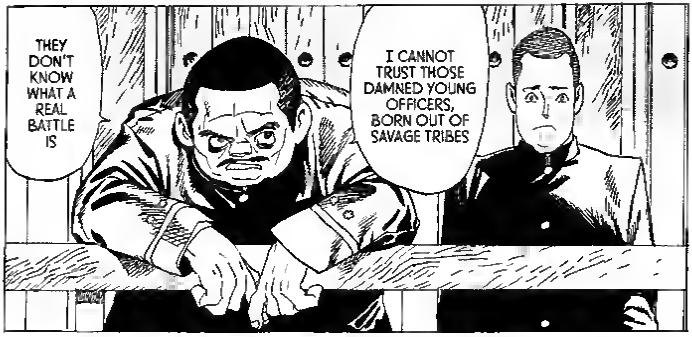
THE GENERAL RAN AWAY!
天狼会戦
KITAGO FALLS
IN THE SIX DAYS WE USED TO FLEE, KITAGO HAS FALLEN WITH NO SOLDIERS TO PROTECT IT
NOW, ALL OUR PROVISIONS STORED AT KITAGO ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE ROYAL ARMY
ROYAL FORCES
IMPERIAL FORCES (NORTHERN GARRISONS)
BUT, YOU GUYS IN HERE ARE LUCKY!
I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING
BECAUSE I AM GOING TO ESCAPE WITH ALL MY MIGHT
BU BUT... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PEOPLE ON SMALL VILL--
CAN YOU DEFEND THEM?
THE NORTHERN GARRISONS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES NO LONGER EXIST
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT
BEFORE WE CAN ESCAPE
AS I THOUGHT
WE WILL NEED TO FORM A REAR GUARD TO ALLOW THE ESCAPE OF ALLIED TROOPS


OUR MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE BRIDGE
UNTIL THE FIFTH INDEPENDENT ARTILLERY BRIGADE, WHO BARELY MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM TENROU PLAINS, FINISHES CROSSING THE RIVER
WE WILL NEED TO DEFEND THE GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE FOR A FEW DAYS
ROYAL ARMY ADVANCE ROUTE
SABERTOOTH SQUAD INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, 11TH ELEVENTH BATTALION
KAINENJI (BATTALION HEADQUARTERS)
IMPERIAL GUARDS 5TH BRIGADE
IMPERIAL ARMY ESCAPE ROUTE
GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE
IMPERIAL NORTHERN GARRISON TROOPS (CURRENTLY ESCAPING)
NORTHERN GARRISON HARBOUR
ESCAPE SUPPORT FLEET (EASTERN COAST)
VILLAGES
DEFENSIVE LINE

THE ENEMY'S 40,000 MEN ARMY WILL TARGET THAT BRIDGE
THE RIVER'S WIDTH IS 181.6 METERS THE GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE IS THE ONLY POINT WHERE IT CAN BE CROSSED
WE WILL NOT WASTE A SINGLE SOLDIER
BEFORE THOSE 40,000 SOLDIERS'S EYES, OUR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION SABERTOOTH SQUAD 11TH BATTALION'S 884 SOLDIERS AND 80 TIGERS SHALL STAND
THIS IS NOT A SACRIFICE LIKE 2ND LIEUTENANT ISHIDA'S PLATOON

AND JUST LIKE US, THE THE IMPERIAL GUARDS 5TH ARTILLERY BRIGADE HAS BEEN DESIGNED DEFENSIVELY
Oh well...
COMPARED TO THAT SITUATION, OUR BATTALION IS NEARLY UNSCATHED
HE DID THE BEST HE COULD
IN THAT SITUATION
HE SLOWED DOWN THE ENEMY PURSUIT CONSIDERABLY
EVEN THOUGH HIS HIGHNESS' UNIT IS ALSO UNSCATCHED, WE CANNOT ALLOW IT TO BE PART OF THE LAST LINES OF DEFENSE
THEN, NOW IT'S OUR TURN
THE RESERVE MEMBERS ARE AWARE THEY ARE NOT POPULAR WITH THE OTHER SOLDIERS AND RECRUITS

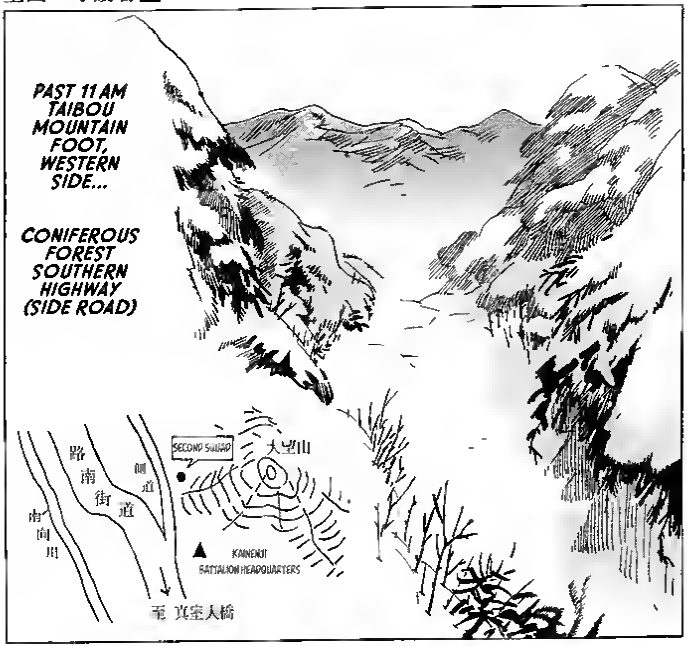
WE, THE SECOND COMPANY'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE TO DO SO, WE SHALL FIND OUT THE ENEMY'S WHEREABOUTS
YEAH
CAN'T YOU TALK LIKE THAT WITH OUR COMPANY COMMANDER?
THEY DO NOT SEEM EAGER TO CONFIRM TRACES OF THE ENEMY
THIS BATTLE WILL INFORM THE ENEMY OF THIS PLACE'S EXISTENCE...
THE COMMANDING OFFICERS SEEM TO BE DEEP IN TALK OVER THERE
THAT'S HOW IT IS, SERGEANT MAJOR


THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT A REAL BATTLE IS
I CANNOT TRUST THOSE DAMNED YOUNG OFFICERS, BORN OUT OF SAVAGE TRIBES

EVERY PART OF THE EMPIRE HAS TO DEAL WITH SHODDY INSURRECTIONS OR BANDS OF GANGS
EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE EXPERIENCE FIGHTING AGAINST WELL-EQUIPPED ARMIES
EVEN SHINJO? HE--

BUT I HATE THOSE GUYS

EVEN THOUGH IT IS SAID HE WAS RAISED BY THE DISTINGUISHED KUSHIRO FAMILY, HE ALWAYS HAS THAT SMUG LOOK ON HIS FACE...
THEY SAY BEASTS AND BROTHERS RESEMBLE EACH OTHER WHEN RAISED TOGETHER, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM SO IN HIS CASE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
HE SEEMS STRANGELY POPULAR WITH NON-COMISSIONED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS
Hmmm.
BUT THIS IS WAR, THOSE BASTARDS, PERHAPS THEY SHOULD BE TRYNG TO BE MORE USEFUL?
THE BRIDGE WILL BE DEFENDED BY THE FIRST AND THIRD SQUADS...
KISAMA FROM THE SECOND SQUAD SHOULD STAND WATCH AND INFORM US IF YOU NOTICE ANY MOVEMENT FROM THE ENEMY
ARE YOU ABLE TO DO THAT?


PAST 11 AM
TAIBOU MOUNTAIN FOOT, WESTERN SIDE...
CONIFEROUS FOREST SOUTHERN HIGHWAY (SIDE ROAD)
SECOND SUBCAP
大望山
路南街道
南向川
KANNOJI BATTALION HEADQUARTERS
至 真宝大橋

!

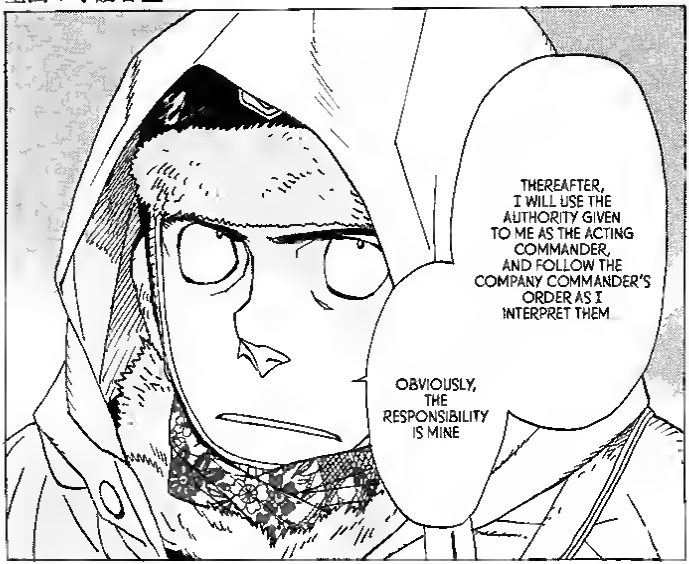
SOMWHERE PAST THE NORTH-NORTHWEST ROAD
THE CAT FOUND SOME-THING
I UNDER-STAND
BASED ON THE CAT'S REACTION, IT SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN AN HOUR AWAY
HAVE YOU CON-FIRMED HOW FAR AWAY IT IS?
BOTH THE MAIN AND SIDE HIGHWAYS ARE COVERED IN APPROXIMATELY 1M THICK SNOW
HOWEVER, THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE CARRYING HEAVY ARTILLERY
THIS IS DANGER-OUS, COMPANY COM-MANDER
A COMIS-SIONED OFFICER WILL DO THE SCOUTING

WE'VE MADE A REPORT OF THE ENEMY'S LOCATION ALREADY
IN THIS SNOW, IF WE MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY ONCE, IT WILL BE HARD TO FLEE
THIS GUY!
BESIDES, THERE'S NO MEANING TO IT
THE NOISE AND SOUNDS CAUSED BY HEAVY CAVALRY CAN BE DETECTED FROM FAR AWAY
AS YOU KNOW, CATS CAN DETECT THEIR PRAY OVER A VAST DISTANCE
NOW WE SHOULD RETURN TO THE MAIN BATALLION HEADQUARTERS AND ASK ABOUT OUR NEX--
OUR SQUAD'S DUTY OF LOCATING THE ENEMY HAS BEEN FULFILLED
DO NOT PUSH YOUR SELF CONFI-DENCE TOO FAR!
ヒヒヒ
DO YOU INTEND TO GIVE ORDERS TO YOUR SUPERIORS?

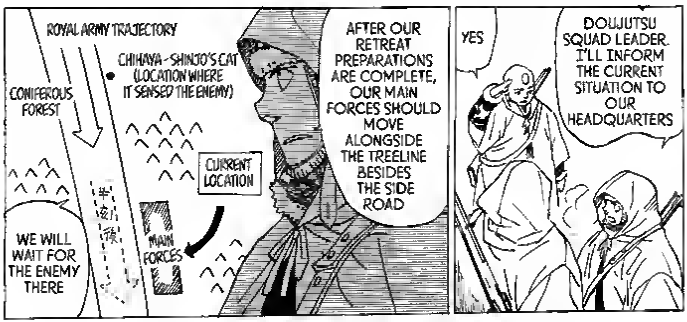
AND THE ONE WHO FOUND THEM IS MY CAT
HOW UNPLEASANTLY... THREATENING
THIS GUY... THIS GUY....
WHAT AN INCREDIBLY DIRECT CHOICE
WOW
SERGEANT MAJOR INOGUCHI WILL CHOOSE THREE OTHER SOLDIERS TO ACCOMPANY ME
IN THAT CASE, I WILL GO SCOUT!
HUH?

THREE PEOPLE... ALL LOOKING VERY DISPLEASED...
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT A PRECIOUS CAT ACCOMPANYING... AND...
I ONLY WISH THAT WE DON'T LOSE ANY MORE SOLDIERS
WE WILL RETURN IN ONE HOUR
DURING THAT PERIOD, LIEUTENANT SHINJO WILL BE ACTING COMMANDER
WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO, COMPANY COMMANDER?
EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTING

FINALIZE THE PREPARATIONS FOR OUR RETREAT, SERGEANT...
BUT...
DO IT...
AS IF WE'RE LEAVING IN ONE HOUR FROM NOW...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT OUR ENEMIES ARE HALF AN HOUR AWAY?
THOSE ARE OUR ORDERS...
WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM
HOW-EVER
HOW-EVER?


THEREAFTER, I WILL USE THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO ME AS THE ACTING COMMANDER, AND FOLLOW THE COMPANY COMMANDER'S ORDER AS I INTERPRET THEM
OBVIOUSLY, THE RESPONSIBILITY IS MINE

UNDER-STOOD
YOU HAVE TO CARRY THAT BURDEN ?
HE DOESN'T LIKE THE ORDERS, BUT STILL NEEDS TO ACT ON THEM FOR THE NEXT HOUR


ROYAL ARMY TRAJECTORY
CHIHAYA - SHINJO'S CAT (LOCATION WHERE IT SENSED THE ENEMY)
CONIFEROUS FOREST
CURRENT LOCATION
MAIN FORCES
WE WILL WAIT FOR THE ENEMY THERE
AFTER OUR RETREAT PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, OUR MAIN FORCES SHOULD MOVE ALONGSIDE THE TREELINE BESIDES THE SIDE ROAD
YES
DOUJUTSU SQUAD LEADER. I'LL INFORM THE CURRENT SITUATION TO OUR HEADQUARTERS

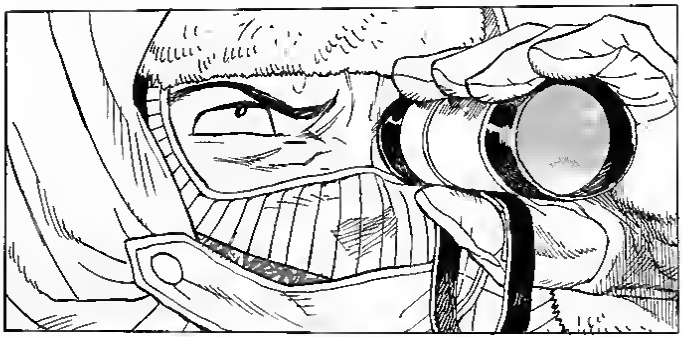
IF WE DO NOT FOLLOW OUR ORDERS, EARN OUR SOLDIER'S RESPECT, AND LOOK FOR THEM, JUST TREATING THEM AS RESOURCES TO BE USED IN WAR
THAT'S TREASON
"I LEISURELY WAIT FOR ONE HOUR FOR ENEMIES THAT SHOULD ARRIVE IN HALF" ORDERS ARE ORDERS, BUT...
WHAT A CHARMING LITTLE ORDER THAT IS
AND BESIDES, I HAVE TO DO IT
WITHOUT THEIR GOODWILL, OUR SOLDIERS WILL NOT MOVE AND THUS, OUR ARMY WILL NOT FUNCTION
MOVING FASTER, PERHAPS IT'S A CAVALRY NOT ACCOMPANIED BY FOOT SOLDIERS
CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, THE ENEMY SEEMS TO BE
THE CATS NOTICED SOMETHING HERE
CAVALRY
FOOT SOLDIER
CANNONS
IF THEY'RE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER TYPES OF UNITS, IT'S LIKELY THEY WILL HAVE A VERY HARD TIME DEALING WITH CANNONS
THE ROYAL ARMY HAS SUCH A RISKY COMPOSITION?

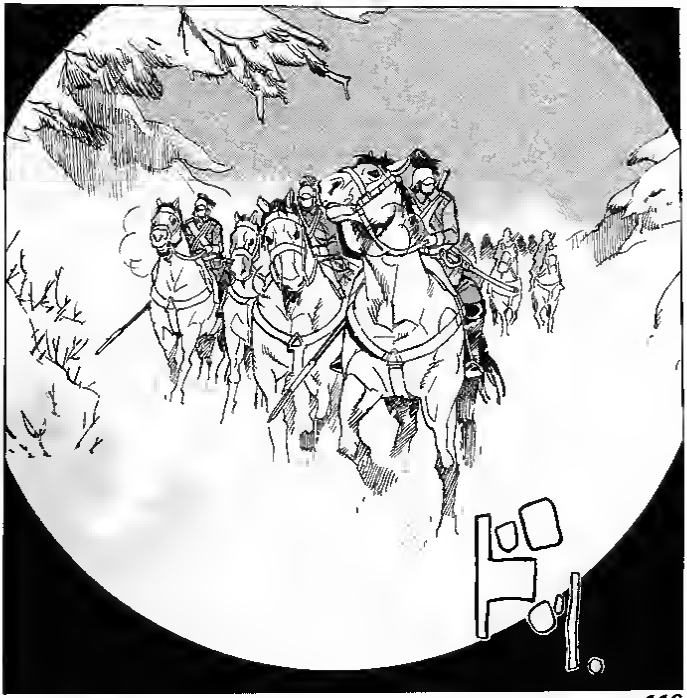
ANY-WA
SINCE THE HORSES AREN'T ALWAYS UNFORTABLE ENOUGH AROUND OUR CATS
WE HAD TO PULL THEM WITH HUMAN POWER,
はぁ…
WE LOST OUR CANNONS DURING THE CONFUSION WHEN WE HAD TO RUN AWAY

I THINK THAT, IF THE ENEMY'S TASK IS TO SCOUT AHEAD, THEY'RE NOT MOVING IN A LARGE GROUP
IF WE ARE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE STRENGHTS BETWEEN CANNONS, CAVALRY AND INFANTRY, I'D PICK THE MOBILITY OF CAVALRY
CORPSES CANNOT BRING INFORMATION BACK
But,
IF WE CANNOT RETREAT IN ONE HOUR, BATTLE WILL BE UNAVOID-ABLE
IF WE CAN AVOID A BATTLE HERE, THE ENEMY'S MAIN FORCES WILL ALSO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CURRENT SITUATION
WHY IS HE IN SUCH A LOW POSITION?
THIS PERSON..
WE CANNOT LET A SINGLE HORSE ESCAPE
MEAN-ING?
DEFEN-DING THE BRIDGE FOR SEVERAL DAYS SHOULD BE FUN

CAN WE WIN?
DURING THE TENROU BATTLE, WASN'T THE NORTHERN GARRISON DEFEATED AND SCATTERED BY THE ROYAL CAVALRY?
EVEN IF WE WIN, CAN WE PREVENT ANYONE FROM ESCAPING?
HOW CAN WE DO THAT?
WE WILL PLUNGE INTO THEM WITH OUR INFERIOUR NUMBERS
A SURPRISE ATTACK
IF WE LOSE OUR ADVANTAGE AND FIGHT THE CAVALRY HEAD ON, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN
IT'S SNOWING

WE SHOULD STILL HAVE 15 MORE MINUTES...
CHIHAYA, GET DOWN!

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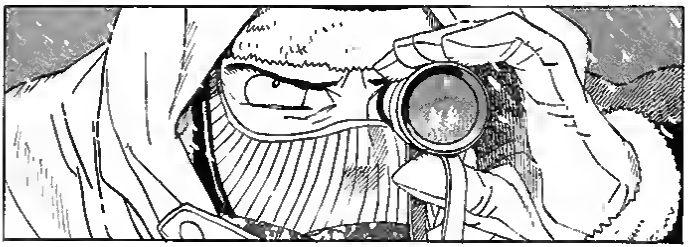
# 皇國の守護者

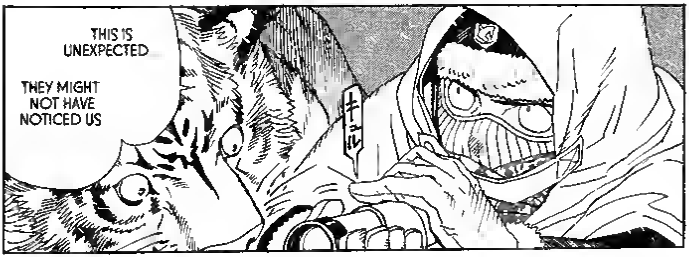
editor **JAC**
translator **DiamondEdge**
cleaner/type **M3OW**

第一章
サーベルタイガース
剣虎兵4



THIS SQUAD SEEMS TO BE THEIR LIGHT CAVALRY. THERE'S ROUGHLY 200 HORSES, DISTANCE IS APPROXIMATELY 145 METERS...
AS SOON AS I DISCOVERED THE ENEMY, I RUSHED BACK TO RELAY THAT INFORMATION TO OUR HEADQUARTERS

THEY'RE NOT MEANT TO BE OFFENSIVE FORCES
IT'S A LIGHT EQUIPPED CAVALRY TO GATHER INFOR-MATION INDEPEN-DENTLY
THEY'RE UNDER-ESTIMATING THE EMPIRE, DON'T YOU AGREE?


THIS IS UNEXPECTED
THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED US
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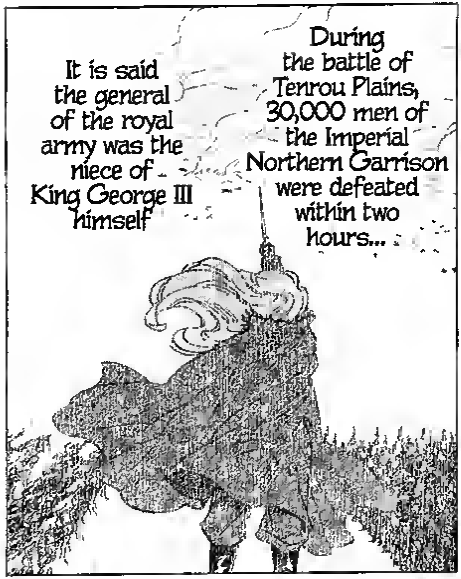
I wonder...
OUR SABERTOOTH SQUAD HAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME COMP-OSITION
IT'S IMPRUDENT TO JUMP IN WITHOUT ANY INFOR-MATION
AND THAT THE FORCES AHEAD ARE SIMPLY FOR RECONNAISSANCE, I BELIEVE IT'S POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THEM
IF WE ASSUME THE ENEMY FORCES HAVE A BALANCED COMPOSITION AND ARE QUICK TO ADAPT IN BATTLE
ARE WE JUMPING IN? WITH THE CATS?
IF THEIR MAIN DUTY IS SCOUTING, THEY LIKELY DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION YET
THAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION

BE PATIENT...
WE WILL START SHOOTING ONCE THEY'RE 36 METERS AWAY THE CATS WILL GO AFTER THAT

I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT
IF WE DON'T WIPE THEM OUT, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US...
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FIREPOWER THEREFORE, WE HAVE TO END THIS WITH A SINGLE BLOW
CLOSE COM-BAT
I DON'T...
I DON'T BUT...
SO, WE KILL THEM...
DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS, SERGEANT MAJOR?
SEEMS LIKE A DIFFI-CULT TASK

You seem to be having fun...


It is said the general of the royal army was the niece of King George III himself
During the battle of Terrou Plains, 30,000 men of the Imperial Northern Garrison were defeated within two hours...

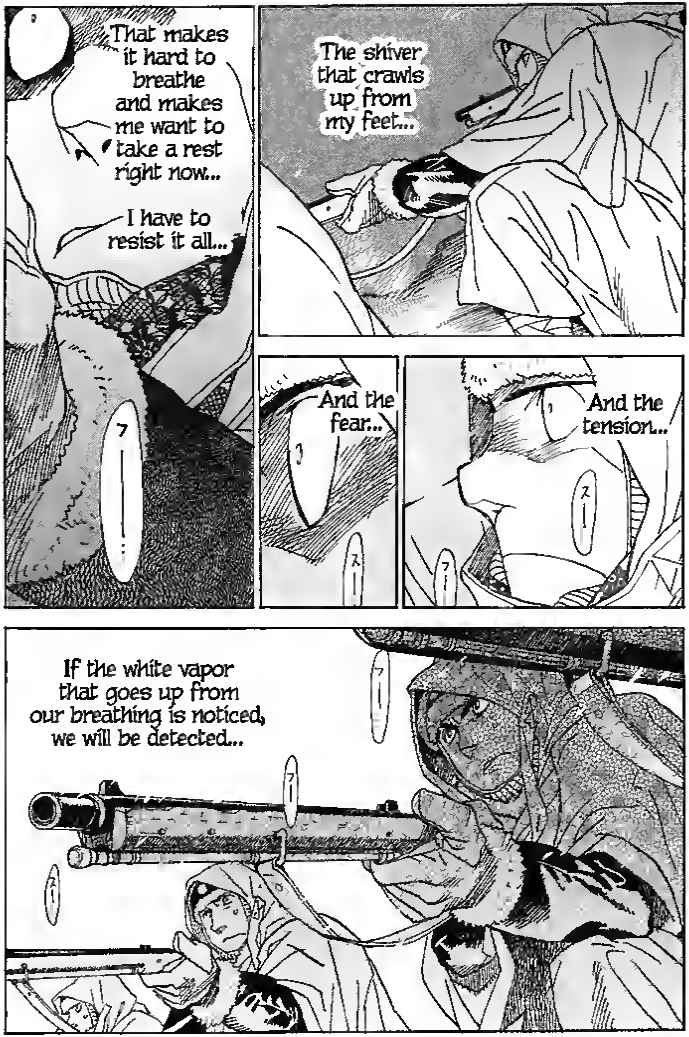
I DON'T MEAN THIS
BUT?
AH, NO LET ME SEE

AH THE ROYAL ARMY'S SUPREME COMMANDER IS
SOME KIND OF PRINCESS, ISN'T SHE?

DO YOU KNOW HER?
I'VE HEARD THE NAME
PRINCESS OF THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORY, YULIA DO VIRNA TSARITSA ROSHINA
HERE THEY COME
EVEN IF WE WERE MADE PRISONERS, I DON'T BELIEVE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET AN AUDIENCE

YOU ARE TO BEGIN SHOOTING AFTER LIEUTENANT SHINJO
COMPANY, PREPARE TO STRIKE!

IT'S NO WONDER THIS IS THE FIRST BATTLE FOR MOST OF THEM
ALL THE YOUNGER SOLDIERS SEEM TO BE PANICKING


That makes it hard to breathe and makes me want to take a rest right now...
I have to resist it all...
The shiver that crawls up from my feet...
And the fear...
And the tension...
If the white vapor that goes up from our breathing is noticed, we will be detected...

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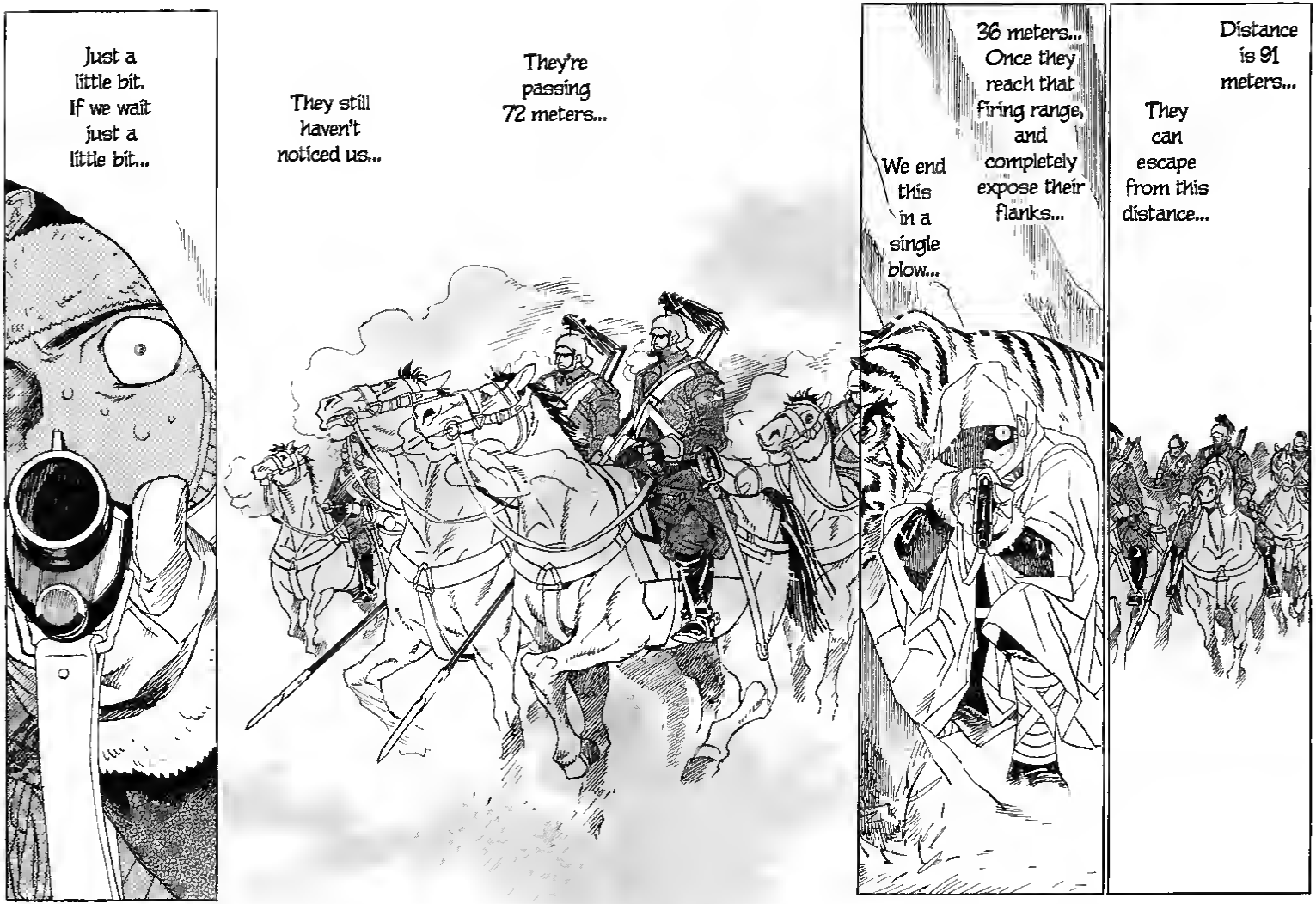
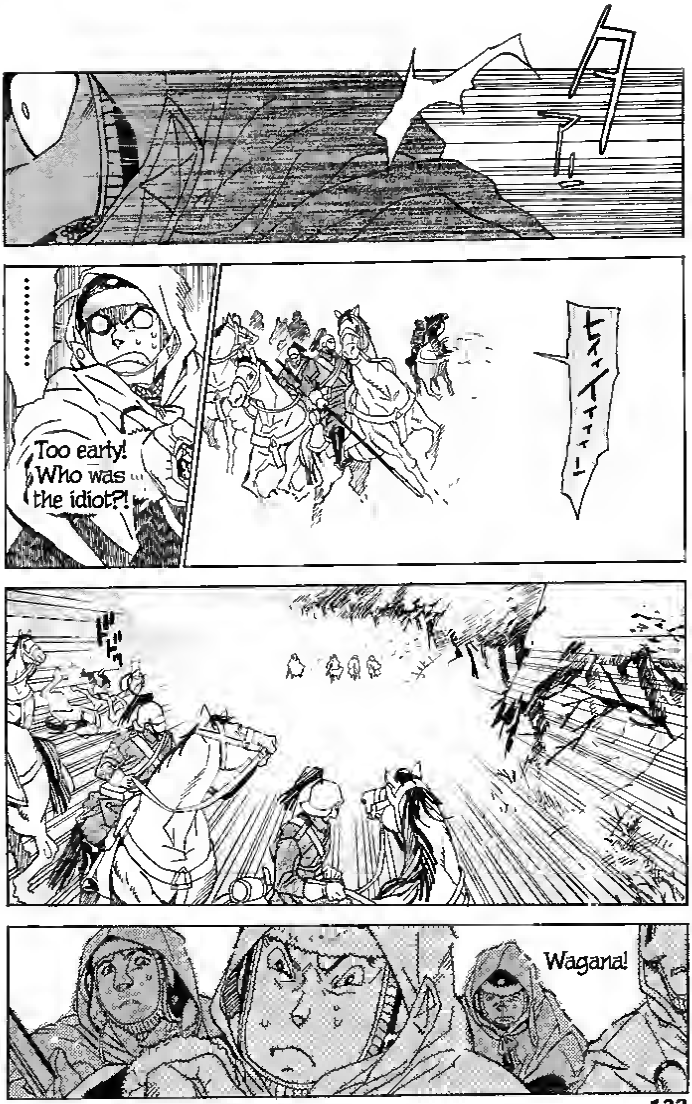
Up until now, these are the kinds of enemies our company have faced. But this is different...
Groups of rebels fighting against some countryside nobleman...
Our enemies are the Royal Army
I am...
This time...
And just like the rest of the company...
ドガッ

Such cowardice! How pitiful!
I will not grit my teeth!!
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LAUGH AT THIS SELF LOATHING
にぃぃ…っ
THAT PERSON IS
LAUGHING...
AFTER ALL, WE ARE BRAVE!
OK!


Just a little bit. If we wait just a little bit...
They still haven't noticed us...
They're passing 72 meters...
We end this in a single blow...
36 meters... Once they reach that firing range, and completely expose their flanks...
They can escape from this distance...
Distance is 91 meters...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.....
Too early! Who was the idiot?!
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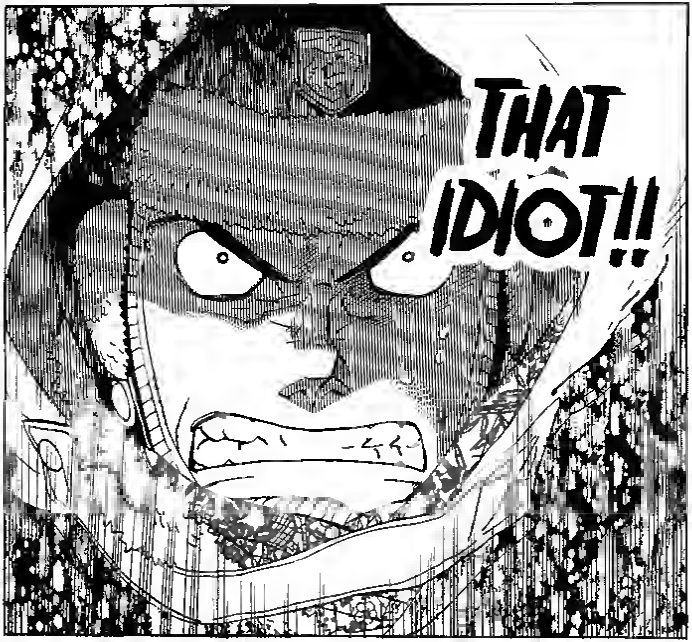
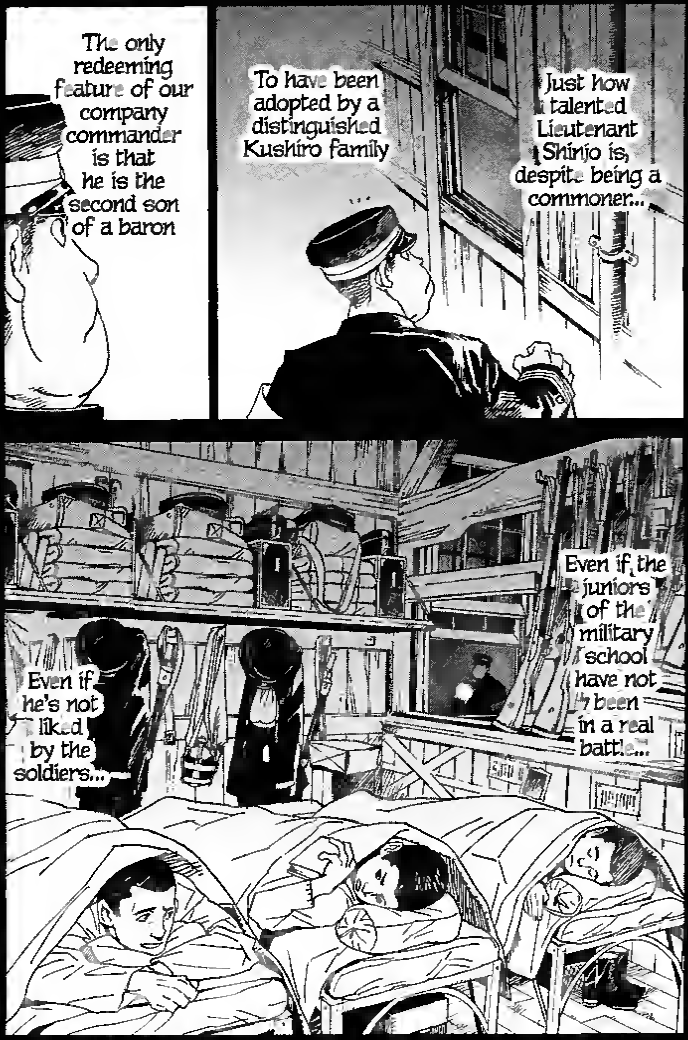
Wagana!


THAT IDIOT!!

AT LEAST OUR SABERTOOTH SQUAD IS HIDDEN
THE PLAN HAS FAILED, THAT CAVALRY SQUAD WAS JUST SCOUTING
NOW THEY CAN RUN AWAY WITH ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT US!
DO NOT RELEASE THE CATS!!

T-this is dangerous, company commander!
LET'S GO!
I understand...
We are all pureblood members of a family!
IF WE MOVE OUT, WE CAN PREFORM A PINCER ATTACK!!
So that's how it is...
DO NOT FALTER!!


The only redeeming feature of our company commander is that he is the second son of a baron
To have been adopted by a distinguished Kushiro family
Just how talented Lieutenant Shirjo is, despite being a commoner...
Even if the juniors of the military school have not been in a real battle...
Even if he's not liked by the soldiers...

You can't go against family!
Since you're all commoners...
That's how it is

BUT YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE IT
I NEED TO BE ABLE TO AVOID EXPOSING MYSELF TO THE LINE
SO THE PINCER ATTACK MAY SUCCEED!
You are competent enough to be our company commander
Shinjo, Shinjo!

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AH....
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ガチッ
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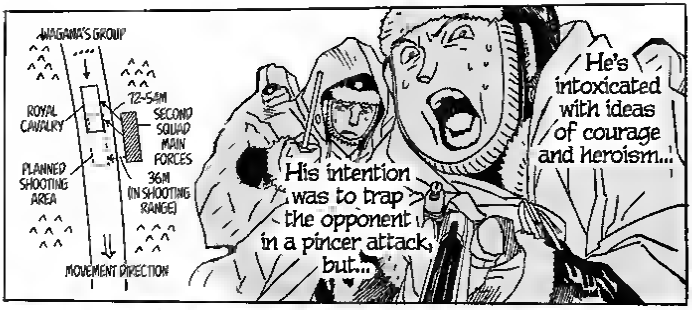
What a strange chorus...
The screams of men and horses...
Their moans of agony...
New members join this choir every moment, but...
Their voices do not get any louder...
Because those who had joined in earlier keep dying one after another
THAT FOOL WAGANA RUINED THE PLAN
Damn it...
THEY DID NOT KNOW THE PLAN FOR OUR ATTACK
RETREAT!
PICK UP THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN FROM THEIR HORSES! REGARDLESS OF BEING DEAD OR ALIVE!

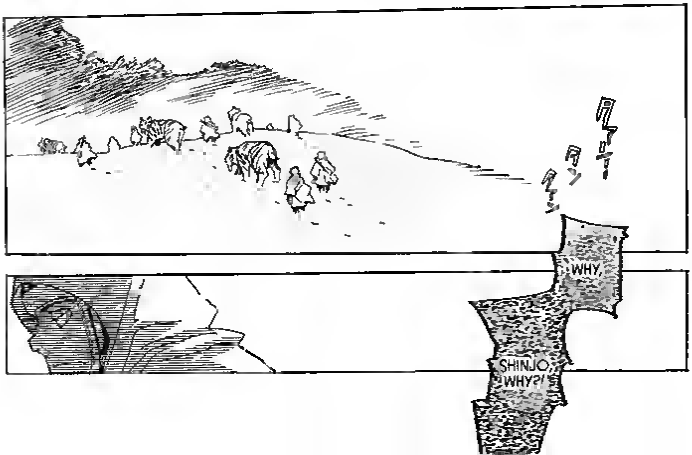

MAGAMA'S GROUP
ROYAL CAVALRY
PLANNED SHOOTING AREA
72-54M
SECOND SQUAD MAIN FORCES
36M (IN SHOOTING RANGE)
MOVEMENT DIRECTION
His intention was to trap the opponent in a pincer attack, but...
He's intoxicated with ideas of courage and heroism...

They may pursue us...
Moves out of range of our main squad's guns...
If even one of those messengers returning to their headquarters...

Goddamn bastard!
CEASE FIRE!
CEASE FIRE!
CEASE FIRE!
カカド
LIEUT-ENANT
THAT IS

SHINJOOO!
SER-GEANT MAJOR
ONE HOUR HAS PASSED
LET'S RETREAT

YES
HOPEFULLY, WE CAN JOIN WITH THE MAIN BATALLION BEFORE THE ENEMY CATCHES US
WE CAN GAIN SOME DISTANCE WHILE IT'S SNOWING...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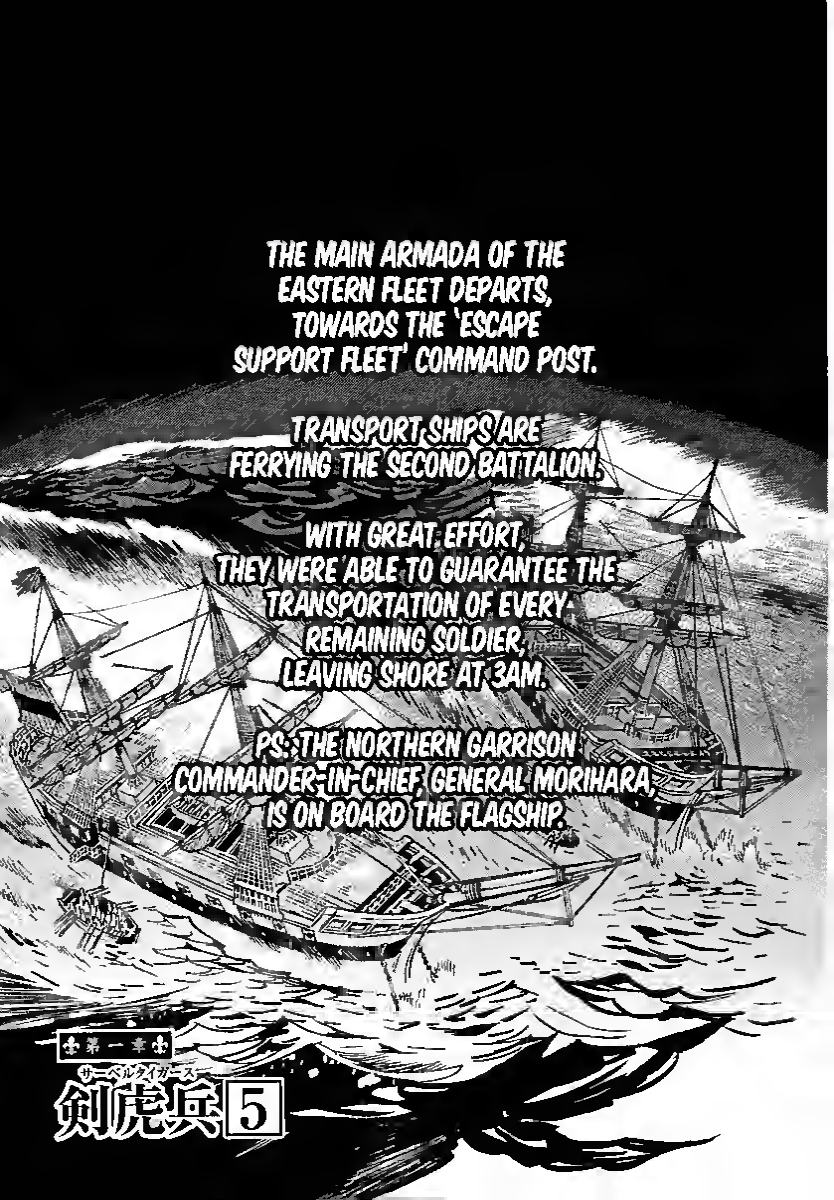
WHY.
SHINJO, WHY?!

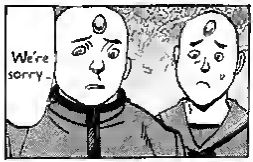
THAT MAN WAS WRONG
HOW-EVER
HE COULD NOT GO AGAINST HIS ORDERS...
BUT...
SHINJO LEFT OUR COMPANY COMMANDER TO DIE
IS THAT OKAY?
IF WE WENT TO HELP, HOW MANY OF US WOULD END UP DYING?
February 9.
The 11th Sabertooth Independent Investigation Unit, 2nd Squad lost four men in battle, including their commander....
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN ALIVE
Its main forces suffered no losses

# 皇國的守護者

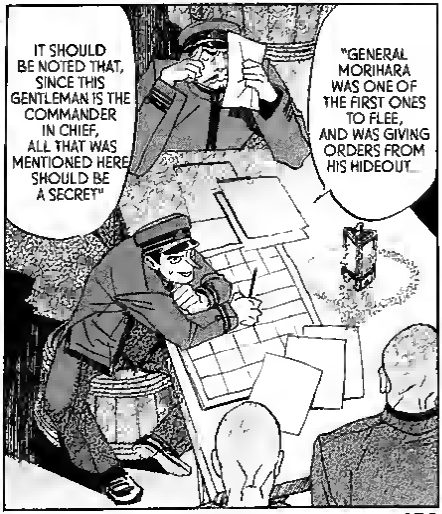
editor **JAC**
translator **DiamondEdge**
cleaner/type **M3OW**

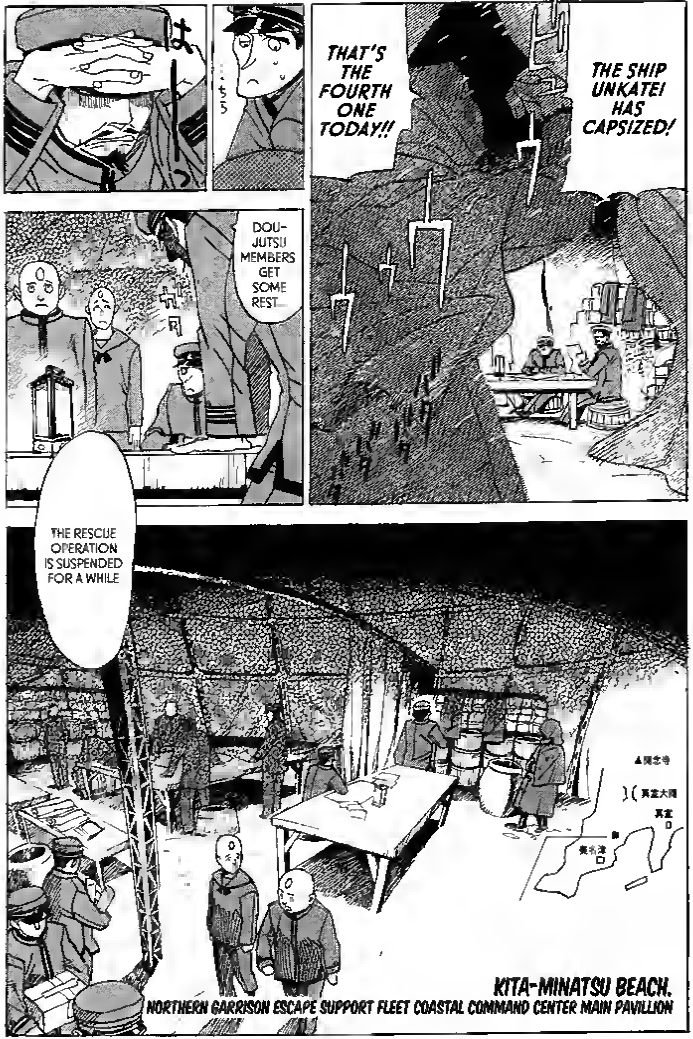

THE MAIN ARMADA OF THE EASTERN FLEET DEPARTS, TOWARDS THE 'ESCAPE SUPPORT FLEET' COMMAND POST.
TRANSPORT SHIPS ARE FERRYING THE SECOND BATTALION.
WITH GREAT EFFORT, THEY WERE ABLE TO GUARANTEE THE TRANSPORTATION OF EVERY-REMAINING SOLDIER, LEAVING SHORE AT 3AM.
PS.: THE NORTHERN GARRISON COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL MORIHARA, IS ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP.
第一章
サーベルタイガース
剣虎兵5

FURTHERMORE, REGARDING THE POSTSCRIPT (PS), WE WERE ASKED NOT TO CONVEY IT'S CONTENTS TO THE GENERAL TROOPS"
"UPON ARRIVAL ON THE SHIP, THE GENERAL BEGAN GIVING SOME ORDERS FOR US TO CARRY OUT
ESCAPE SUPPORT FLEET, MAIN HEADQUARTERS IMPERIAL NAVY, LIEUTENANT COLONEL SADANOBU SASAJIMA


We're sorry...

NO NO NO, IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL. YOU MERELY HAPPENED TO LISTEN TO ME
COMMANDER!


IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, SINCE THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ALL THAT WAS MENTIONED HERE SHOULD BE A SECRET"
"GENERAL MORIHARA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES TO FLEE, AND WAS GIVING ORDERS FROM HIS HIDEOUT...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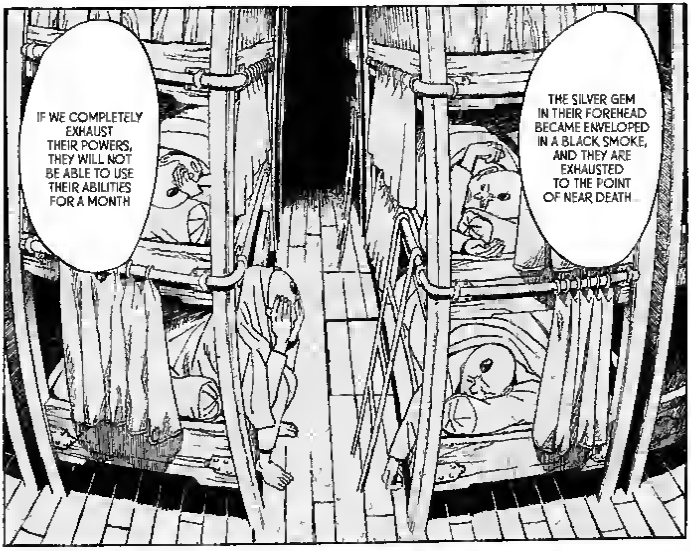
THAT'S THE FOURTH ONE TODAY!!
THE SHIP UNKATEI HAS CAPSIZED!
DOU-JUTSU MEMBERS GET SOME REST...
THE RESCUE OPERATION IS SUSPENDED FOR A WHILE
KITA-MINATSU BEACH.
NORTHERN GARRISON ESCAPE SUPPORT FLEET COASTAL COMMAND CENTER MAIN PAVILION

USING DOU-JUTSU DURING WINTER IS HARD,
FOUR OTHERS HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN SICK
THESE WERE THE LAST TWO PEOPLE AVAILABLE, I DO NOT INTEND TO EXHAUST THEM TO DEATH
WE ARE NOT RECEIVING ANY FURTHER TRANS-MISSIONS, BUT

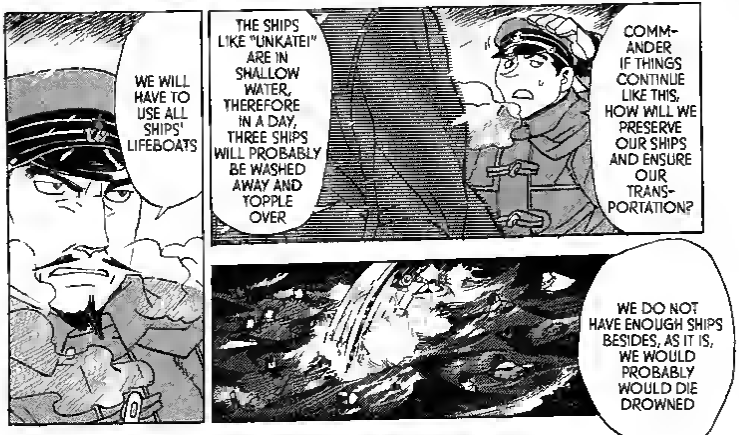

IF WE COMPLETELY EXHAUST THEIR POWERS, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THEIR ABILITIES FOR A MONTH
THE SILVER GEM IN THEIR FOREHEAD BECAME ENVELOPED IN A BLACK SMOKE, AND THEY ARE EXHAUSTED TO THE POINT OF NEAR DEATH

OUTSIDE FOLLOW ME LET'S LEAVE THOSE GUYS ALONE
WHERE TO?
REOPENING OUR OPERATIONS AFTER SO LONG IS POINTLESS, AS ANY POSSIBLE TRANSMISSIONS WILL BE TOO DISTANT ..

SO, WHAT DID THE WEATHER REPORT SAY?
THE WINDS WILL BE WEAKER, BUT THE SNOW WILL ONLY GET WORSE
WHY?
YOU AND ME, OUR DEPRESSING FACES MAKE IT LOOK LIKE WE HAVE MORE ORDERS OR DUTIES
IF WE LEAVE OUR SEATS, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RELAX A BIT
TOBACCO AND CANDIES ARE ALSO ALLOWED
IT SEEMS THAT CASES OF FROSTBITE ARE REDUCING, BUT WE STILL HAVE QUITE A FEW SOLDIERS NOT YET GROUPED IN THE COAST
THE CONDITION OF THE SEA

SEEMS TO BE A BIT ROUGH, DOESN'T IT?

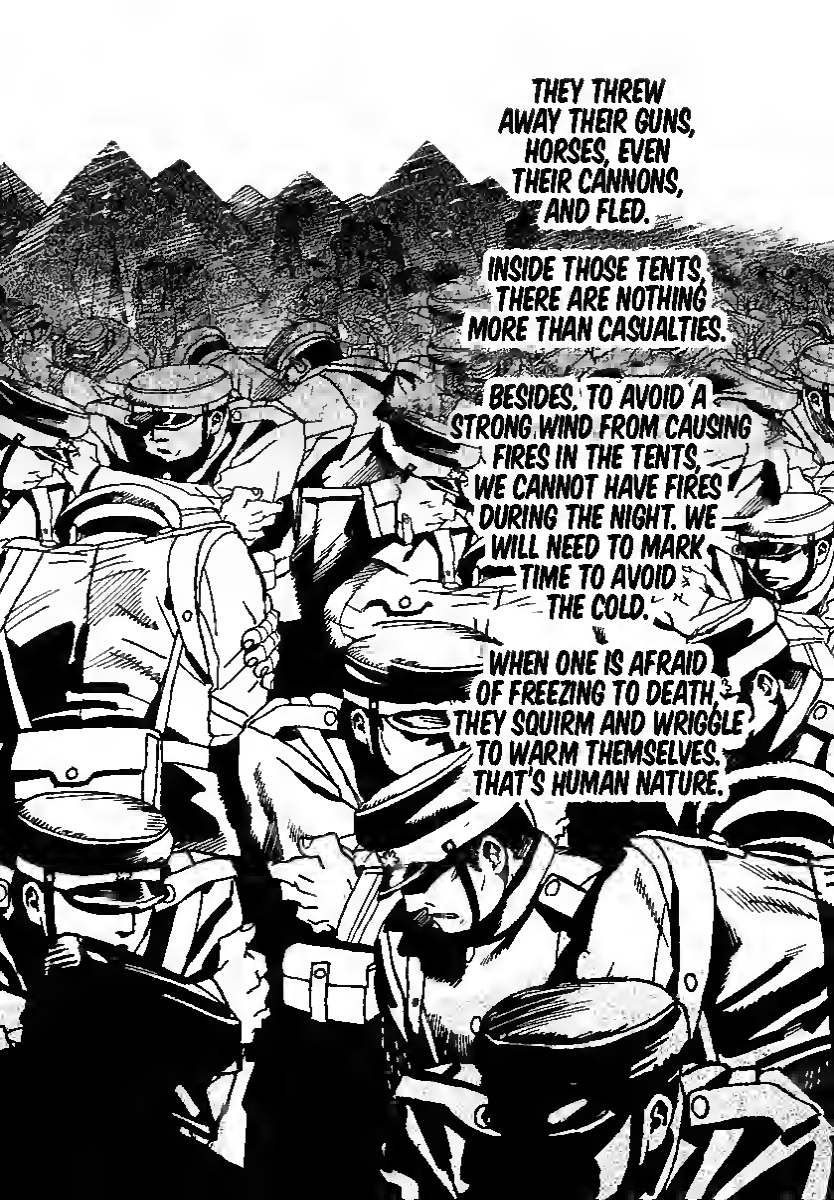
Well, regardless of that, I wonder if there's a High Dragon around this area...
I JUST WISH THEY'D SEND THAT EXPERIMETAL HOT WATER POWERED CRUISER OUR WAY
I MEAN IT
ALL SHIPS? DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT? EVEN OUR BATTLESHIPS IS DANGEROUS IN THIS BAD WEATHER.
THE PROTOTYPE WAS RATHER SMALL IN THIS SITTUATION, I'D WANT SOMETHING LARGER THAN A SMALL CARGO VESSEL
I WOULD NOT COUNT ON IT


WE WILL HAVE TO USE ALL SHIPS' LIFEBOATS
THE SHIPS LIKE "UNKATEI" ARE IN SHALLOW WATER, THEREFORE IN A DAY, THREE SHIPS WILL PROBABLY BE WASHED AWAY AND TOPPLE OVER
COMMANDER IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS, HOW WILL WE PRESERVE OUR SHIPS AND ENSURE OUR TRANSPORTATION?
WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH SHIPS BESIDES, AS IT IS, WE WOULD PROBABLY WOULD DIE DROWNED

IT SEEMS THEY'RE TRYING TO HELP WITH THE RESCUE OPERATIONS BY SCATTERING "PHOSPHOROUS LIGHT BOMBS" AROUND THE AREA
THAT SEEMS TO BE FROM THE DRAGON CRUISER, THEY'RE FLYING ON PTEROSAURS
GOOD GRIEF,
EVERYONE IS DOING THEIR BEST
IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF THE DRAGON RIDERS ARE GETTING FROSTBITE. I AM SURE THEY'RE ALSO VERY EXHAUSTED
WE ONLY HAVE FOUR TAMED ANIMALS TO TAKE SHIFTS WITH, AND SETTING EVERYTHING UP TAKES QUITE A BIT OF TIME. THAT PTEROSAUR IS THE ONLY ONE PATROLLING FOR NOW.

A HIGH DRAGON,
CAN CONTROL THOUSANDS OF PTEROSAURS AT ONCE
IF WE HAD A HIGH DRAGON, THERE'D BE NO NEED FOR ANY DRAGON RIDERS, RIGHT?
OR IF WE COULD USE THE HARBOR, WE WOULDN'T REALLY NEED THE UNKATEI
Or how should I say...
WE COULD MAKE ROUND TRIPS FROM THE BEACH AND OVERTURN THE UNKATEI,
港
浜
IT'S VERY RARE FOR ONE TO BE ABLE TO GET A DIRECT PACT WITH A SKY DRAGON
YOU'RE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH
IF WE COULD USE THOSE, ALL OUR ISSUES WOULD BE RESOLVED EASILY
HIGH DRAGONS, CARGO SHIPS WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY OF THOSE AROUND KITA-MIHAMATSU HARBOUR, SO WHY DON'T WE STOP DREAMING?

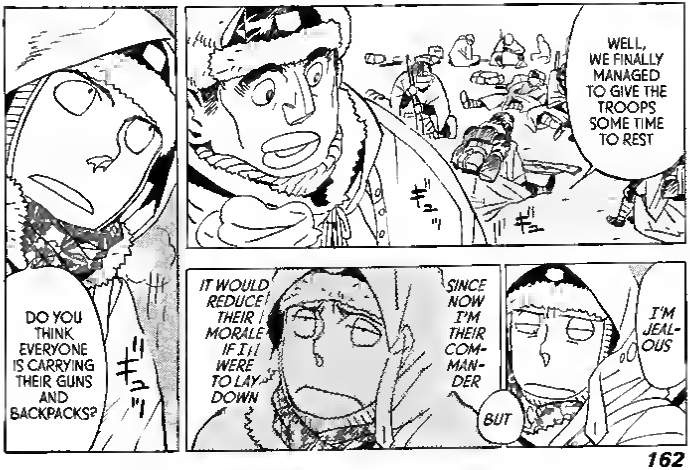
THE MAYOR OF KITA-MINATSU WOULD NOT ALLOW MILITARY USE OF IT'S HARBOR, BASED ON A CLAUSE OF THE GREAT CODE IT ABIDES TO
AND SINCE OUR COUNTRY HAS FLED AND ABANDONED THE NORTHERN TERRITORES, IT'S NATURAL THAT THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO AID US
DAMMIT, DAMMIT! EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE AGAINST US
IN THE MIDST OF THIS COLDEST PERIOD, AND IN THIS SHORE WITH HIGH WAVES, JUST HOW CAN WE RESCUE ALL 18,000 OF OUR MEN?
NO MAYBE THEY AREN'T SOLDIERS ANYMORE


THEY THREW AWAY THEIR GUNS, HORSES, EVEN THEIR CANNONS, AND FLED.
INSIDE THOSE TENTS, THERE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CASUALTIES.
BESIDES, TO AVOID A STRONG WIND FROM CAUSING FIRES IN THE TENTS, WE CANNOT HAVE FIRES DURING THE NIGHT. WE WILL NEED TO MARK TIME TO AVOID THE COLD.
WHEN ONE IS AFRAID OF FREEZING TO DEATH, THEY SQUIRM AND WRIGGLE TO WARM THEMSELVES. THAT'S HUMAN NATURE.

TO RESCUE EVERYONE, WE WOULD NEED AT LEAST 20 DAYS
IN THESE FOUR DAYS SINCE THE START OF THIS OPERATION, WE WERE ABLE TO TRANSPORT ONLY 2,800 MEN...
ARE JUST 10 DAYS OF TRAVEL AWAY FROM THE SHORE
AND THE VANGUARD OF THE ROYAL ARMY, TRIUMPHANT AFTER THEIR VICTORY...

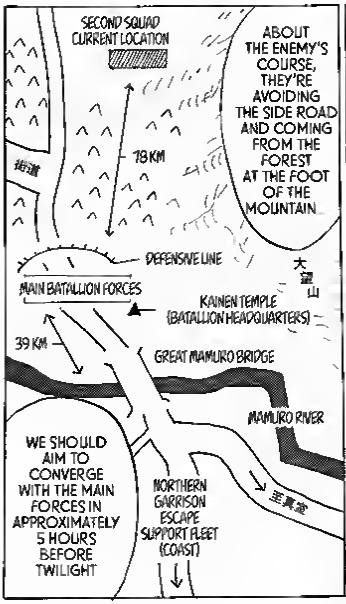
THE REMAINING FORCES SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLOW THEM FOR A WHILE
ARE YOU COUNTING ON THAT?
THAT MOB IS NOT LIKELY TO GO THROUGH A CHANGE OF HEART
NO
BECOMING HEROES RIGHT AFTER SUCH A DEFEAT?
THAT'S AN ABSURD NOTION!!

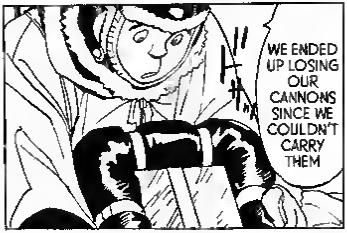
IT SHOULD BE OKAY AS LONG AS WE DON'T STOP WALKING
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO AVOID GETTING FROSTBITE ON OUR TOES WE ARE IN A POOR CONDITION
ONE HOUR AFTER STARTING THE RETREAT


DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IS CARRYING THEIR GUNS AND BACKPACKS?
WELL, WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GIVE THE TROOPS SOME TIME TO REST
IT WOULD REDUCE THEIR MORALE IF I WERE TO LAY DOWN
SINCE NOW I'M THEIR COMMANDER
BUT
I'M JEALOUS

ギュ
ギュ
THE HEALTHY MEMBERS OF EACH PLATOON ARE MAKING SLEDS,
THEY CAN FINISH THEM IN 30 MINUTES
THAT'S QUICK
ギュ
ギュ
YES AS YOU COMMANDED, I KEPT WATCH OVER THOSE WHO SEEMED THE MOST EXHAUSTED, TO MAKE SURE THEN DON'T THROW THEM AWAY.
FOR NOW, NONE HAVE DONE SO, BUT...
WE HAVE EXPERIENCED COMBAT ENGINEERS IN THE COMPANY
AND WE ALSO HAVE CARPENTERS AND FARMERS HERE

SINCE WE SHOULD PREVENT THE CATS FROM GETTING EXHAUSTED
SO DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
THE CATS WILL BE THE ONES PULLING THEM


SECOND SQUAD CURRENT LOCATION
78 KM
街道
DEFENSIVE LINE
大望山
MAIN BATALLION FORCES
KAINEN TEMPLE (BATALLION HEADQUARTERS)
39 KM
GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE
MAMURO RIVER
街道
NORTHERN GARRISON ESCAPE SUPPORT FLEET (COAST)
ABOUT THE ENEMY'S COURSE, THEY'RE AVOIDING THE SIDE ROAD AND COMING FROM THE FOREST AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN
WE SHOULD AIM TO CONVERGE WITH THE MAIN FORCES IN APPROXIMATELY 5 HOURS BEFORE TWILIGHT


WE ENDED UP LOSING OUR CANNONS SINCE WE COULDN'T CARRY THEM

WELL I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO IGNORE MILITARY DISCIPLINE IF IT STOPPED US FROM GETTING EXHAUSTED

THIS ROUTE SHOULD BE HARD TO TRAVERSE, BUT I DON'T THINK THEIR CAVALRY WILL ENTER THE FOREST
I AM THE SECOND LIEUTENANT OF THE 1ST PLATOON, URUSHIBARA, SIR
THE MAIN BATALLION FORCES HAVE CERTAINLY FORMED A SPECIAL UNIT TO DEFEND THE SIDE ROADS AND DELAY THE ENEMY
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CONTACT THESE ALLIES IF WE COME OUT FROM THE FOREST
WE HAVE SENT ALL INFORMATION WE RECEIVED TO HEAD-QUARTERS
OUR MISSION HAS BEEN FULFILLED

IF WE GET CAUGHT BY THE DEFENSE SQUAD, WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO JOIN WITH THE MAIN BATALLION...
THEY WILL PROBABLY WANT US TO JOIN WITH THEM AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTION
THE COMPANY COMMANDER JUST WANTS TO BE RELIVED OF THIS DUTY WITH NO FURTHER INCIDENTS DO YOU THINK HE PLANS TO HELP THAT SQUAD?
YES
I am the commander,
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, CORRECT?

SECOND LIEUTENANT HYOUDOU, AT YOUR SERVICE!
VANGUARD PLATOON COM-MANDER
UNDER-STOOD
THOSE IN THE VANGUARD SHOULD PUT THEIR BACKPACKS ON THE SLEDS
BUT THE VANGUARD IS REQUIRED TO HAVE EASY ACCESS TO THE GUNS AT ALL TIMES, SO YOU SHOULD BRING THEM ALONG
THE USUAL RANGE OF THOSE WEAPONS IS ABOUT 90M. FOR DISTANCES LIKE 36M AND LOWER, THOSE IN THE VANGUARD HAVE TO BE VERY AGRESSIVE DURING THE BATTLE.
IN THAT DISTANCE, SINCE THE BARREL IS SORT AND LIGHT, THE SPEED AT WHICH YOU CAN MOVE AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD IS QUITE HIGH, ABOUT THE SAME AS THE ROYAL JAEGER

SERGEANT MAJOR INOGUCHI WILL BE THE LAST MAN ON OUR MARCHING LINE,
THAT IS ALL
OF COURSE, MY CAT AND I WILL BE JOINING THE ADVANCE GUARD
I AM KAMAMORI SECOND CLASS DOUJITSU SOLDIER
YOUR NAME?
THE MOST HEALTHY OF US ARE RIDING THE SLEDS AT THE END OF OUR LINE
FIRST LIEUT-ENANT!

HEY ARE YOU OK?
IT'S OKAY AS IT IS
Um...
WAS I SCARED LIKE THIS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
OUR DUTY WAS TO OBTAIN INTELLIGENCE ON OUR ENEMY I DO NOT WANT ANY FURTHER TROUBLE UNTIL WE CAN CONVERGE WITH OUR MAIN FORCES
I WILL NOT OVERLOOK ANYTHING
YES!
SINCE THEY NEED SOMETHING FROM THE ENEMY TO SEARCH FOR THEM
SINCE OUR ENEMIES ARE BEHIND US, WE CANNOT USE THE CATS'S EARS OR NOSE
ALL MEMBERS OF THE DOUJUTSU SQUAD SHOULD BE EXHAUSTED

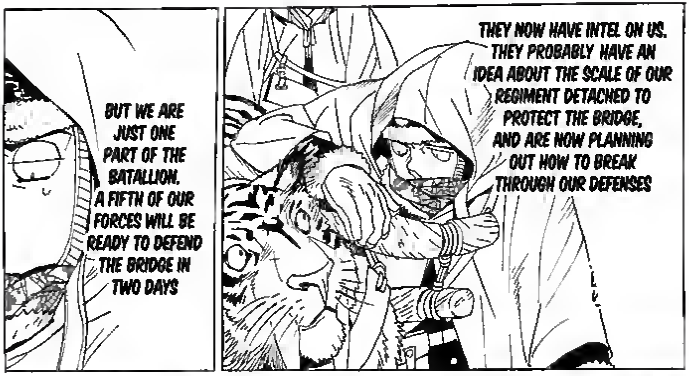
BEING SO YOUNG AND USING THIS ART SO PROFICIENTLY, IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THEIR STAMINA TO DRAIN QUICKLY
I UNDERSTAND THIS IS HARD, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE YOUR ABILITIES
THIS IS A TERRIBLE SITUATION TO DIE IN
THE SITUATION IS FAIRLY COMPLI-CATED
IT'S COLD AND SNOWING, AND OF COURSE WE HAVE NO ALCOHOL AROUND
SO, WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, WE ALL HAVE THE SAME DISEASE
"COWAR-DICE"
THIS IS TROUBLESOME FOR TWO "ELITE" SOLDIERS OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY, ISN'T IT?

I WILL DO MY BEST TO FIND MY COURAGE AND USE IT!
YES!
I AM SCARED AS WELL, BUT WE MUST BE RESOLUTE!
SHINJO NAOE, YOU ARE SUCH A HYPOCRITE!
I AM THE WORST!

I MAKE SOME GRAND TALK ABOUT COURAGE AND EXPLOIT THEIR GOOD WILL TO MAKE OUR SOLDIERS MOVE AHEAD...
THIS IS BETRAYAL! TO THE SOLDIERS. TO HIM. TO THEM!!
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH ARROGANCE ON MY PART
LIEUT-ENANT?
ALL SLEDS ARE COM-PLETE
HUH?

DON'T JUST HAVE THE CATS TAKE ALL THE WORK
TAKE TURNS CARRYING THE BACKPACKS
YOU EVEN MADE THIS FOR THEIR NECKS?
WITHOUT THAT, THEY WOULD GET MUCH MORE EXHAUSTED
YOU REALLY THOUGHT THIS OVER!

LET'S GO! LET'S RESUME OUR RETREAT
IT SEEMS THAT PERSON CAN SMILE NORMALLY, HEH?
WE COULD NOT HIDE FROM THAT CAVALRY, NEITHER COULD WE COMPLETELY WIPE THEM OUT
THANKS TO WAGANA...


BUT WE ARE JUST ONE PART OF THE BATALLION. A FIFTH OF OUR FORCES WILL BE READY TO DEFEND THE BRIDGE IN TWO DAYS
THEY NOW HAVE INTEL ON US. THEY PROBABLY HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT THE SCALE OF OUR REGIMENT DETACHED TO PROTECT THE BRIDGE, AND ARE NOW PLANNING OUT HOW TO BREAK THROUGH OUR DEFENSES

THAT IS TO SAY, STARTING TOMORROW, TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN

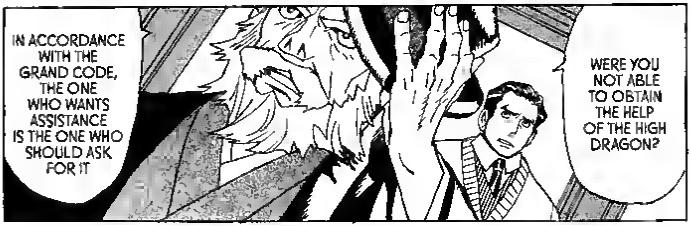
THE SERGEANT MAJOR IS CALLING FOR YOU FROM THE BACK OF THE MARCHING LINE
EVEN AFTER DEATH, HE LEFT BEHIND SOME TROUBLE FOR US
DAMN THAT IDIOT

MORE TROUBLE IN THIS BUSY TIME...
MAYBE IT'S A PTERO-SAUR FROM THE NAVY?
INSIDE THE FOREST, AND SEEMS TO BE HURT
IT'S A DRAGON
I UNDERSTAND SERGEANT MAJOR, BRING THE MEDICAL TROOPS HERE
Ah...
MOST LIKELY, STILL YOUNG
IT SEEMS TO BE A HIGH DRAGON,
LET'S TRY GREETING IT!

# 皇国の守護者

editor **JAC**
translator **DiamondEdge**
cleaner/type **M3OW**

FEBRUARY 11TH, IMPERIAL CAPITAL
RESIDENCE OF THE KUSHIRO FAMILY
IT'S USELESS THINGS DIDN'T GO AS PREDICTED


IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GRAND CODE, THE ONE WHO WANTS ASSISTANCE IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD ASK FOR IT
WERE YOU NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN THE HELP OF THE HIGH DRAGON?

UNDER THE GRAND CODE, DRAGONS AND HUMANS ARE SURELY GOING TO WORK IN MUTUAL BENEFIT, BUT INVOLVING THEM IN WARS IS NOT SO SIMPLE...
UNTIL THE SPARKS OF WAR REACH THEIR NEIGHBOURS, THE HIGH DRAGONS HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO HELP US
THAT'S HOW IT IS
SINCE THERE ARE HIGH DRAGONS LIVING ONLY IN THE EMPIRE, THEY COULD BE A TRUMP CARD...
IF THAT OPTION IS NOT AVAILABLE TO US THEN
IT SEEMS LIKE I WILL NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HIS FACE AGAIN

NAO
-CHAN

I AM THE ONE THAT YOUR KIND REFER TO AS "HIGH DRAGON"
MY NAME IS ICHINAJOU, I AM A DESCENDANT OF BANDOU
I AM A LIEUTENANT OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY, SHINJO NAOE,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GRAND CODE, I SHALL DO ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE WITHIN MY ABILITIES TO AID YOU
THEREFORE, I REQUEST THAT YOU FULLFILL THE DUTIES ESTABLISHED BY THE GRAND CODE

**Sabertooth Tigers ⑥**

AND SINCE THE SENTENCE WE WOULD FACE FOR PASSING BY A HURT DRAGON WITHOUT HELPING IT IS DEATH,
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE TO HURRY AND REJOIN THE MAIN BATALLION, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT STOP HERE AND HELP
AND SINCE HIGH DRAGONS CAN USE DOUJUTSU, A VIOLATION OF THE GRAND CODE WILL QUICKLY BECOME WELL KNOWN TO ALL DRAGONS
"HUMANS AND DRAGONS ARE TO AID EACH OTHER",
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A DRAGON FROM THIS CLOSE
BUT IN SUNNY DAYS, YOU CAN OFTEN SEE ONE FLYING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE SKIES
Heh, I'm sure it is
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SPOKEN WITH A HUMAN

I was led astray by the wind currents and flew above the skies above a battlefield...
To avoid those currents, I lowered my altitude and got shot by your fellow countrymen...
This is not their fault...
So far, that was not enough to constitute a violation of the Grand Code,
I am the one at fault for getting angry, that is all
OH...
YOU SEEM LIKE A PRETTY COMPOSED FELLOW...

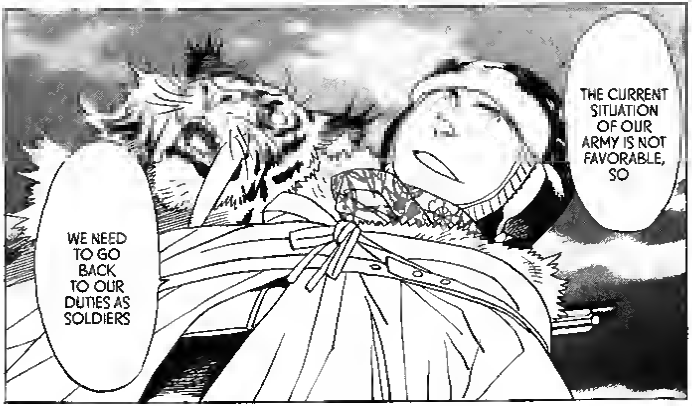
CHIHA
AS A HUMAN, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
DON'T BARK AT IT....
PLEASE EXCUSE U—
That's a good cat you have with you
I AM EMBAR-ASSED BY HIS MISCHIEV-OUSNESS

HE IS CUTE
I APPRECIATE THE COMPLIMENT.
BE CAREFUL WITH THE SCALES
YES
Haha. Lieutenant, Do you believe in that legend?
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE DRAGON'S IMPERIAL WRATH, THE TRUTH IS THAT I'VE GIVEN IT SOME CONSIDERATION
SO FAR HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING USED TO HIM WELL
In my home village located deep in the mountains of Ryuusai, it's considered just some kind of funny story
So it is possible to domesticate a saber-tooth tiger...

Lieutenant, where is that village located?
SOMEWHERE AROUND TOUCHUU
AH... NO THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MY HOME VILLAGE
A CIVIL WAR OCURRED THERE 24 YEARS AGO...
Please accept my apologies for bringing that up
IT'S NOTHING, IT'S IS ALL DUE TO THE FIGHTING

Your parents...
Their souls are at peace
Medical corps, I'm deeply thankful

I was looking forward to talking a bit longer with you, but...
That's too bad...
YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR GENEROUS WORDS


WE NEED TO GO BACK TO OUR DUTIES AS SOLDIERS
THE CURRENT SITUATION OF OUR ARMY IS NOT FAVORABLE, SO

PERHAPS...
May you all be blessed with the Dragon God's divine protection
"THEY WILL BE GRANTED THE BLESSING OF RETURNING ALIVE...
"IT'S ALL DUE TO THE FIGHTING"
A blessing to all your parents and siblings as well

What a regrettable fate they must face....
YOU IDIOTS! "WE MET A HIGN DRAGON"?!
WNO WOULD BELIEVE SUCN A CONVENIENT EXCUSE?!
EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY AS REPORTED VIA DOUJUTSU
7PM, main headquarters

NO.
YOU ABANDONED WAGANA AND RETREATED
AND DUE TO THAT, YOU TOOK UNUSUALLY LONG TO RETURN AM I WRONG?
HUH? SERGEANT MAJOR, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'M GOING TO THE AREA AROUND THE GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE,
THE FIRST LIEUTENANT GOT PERMISION FROM THE BATTALION SUPPLY OFFICERS
DURING THE ESCAPE FROM THE GARRISONS, A LOT OF SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED ON THE PATH
AH, WELL,
ONE FOOL AND THREE OTHERS HAD TO BE SACRIFICED, BUT THE IMPORTANT IS THAT IT WAS SO THE WHOLE SQUAD COULD RETURN
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY LIKE YOU
WHAT AN HONEST FERSON

FOR ALL THE INFORMATION YOU AND THE DOUJUTSU SQUAD MANAGED TO SEND US,
FOR BOLDLY DISRUPTING THE ENEMY ADVANCE, AS WELL AS GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS AND A NOCTURNAL ASSAULT.
FROM NOW ONWARDS, YOU ARE THE COMMANDER OF THE SECOND SQUAD
COMMANDER ITO...
A FEW YEARS AGO, HE WAS ORDERED TO LEAVE THE CAVALRY AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE SABERTOOTH SQUAD. SINCE THEN...
HE HAS A DEEP GRUDGE AGAINST THE SQUAD, OR SO THE STORY GOES.
OUR ALLIES SHOULD TAKE 2 MORE DAYS TO CROSS THE BRIDGE OUR SQUAD HAS ROUGHLY 800 MEN,
THE ARMY SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE REGIMENT WITH 3,000 MEN
IN TRUTH, DON'T YOU AGREE THAT PROTECTING THE BRIDGE IS WORTH THE EFFORT?
I WONDER IF HE WAS A SKILLED COMISSIONED OFFICER WHEN HE WAS IN THE CAVALRY

THEIR REINFORCEMENTS, WHICH INCLUDES TWO FULL BRIGADES, SHOULD TOTAL AROUND 8,000 MEN

EVEN IF OUR CAVALRY SCOUTS GET ATTACKED BY SURPRISE, THE BARBARIAN SOLDIERS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET MUCH INFORMATION ON OUR TROOPS
THEY CAN ONLY OFFER LIGHT RESISTANCE,
AS IT IS
AND THEIR DEFENSES AT MAMURO BRIDGE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SOLIDIFIED YET

YOU SEEM EXHAUSTED,
YOUR NOBLE BODY IS ILL-SUITED TO ADVANCING AS QUICKLY AS WE ARE IN THIS LAND
IT NOT YET NIGHT, PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND REST WELL
MY ORDERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN,
TONIGHT, MY SOLDIERS WILL BE THE ONES TO GIVE ME A PEACEFUL SLEEP
AS YOU WISH
I AWAIT THE GOOD NEWS,
YOU MAY GO

THIS AREA HAS NOTHING BUT FROZEN BODIES
SHIT! I STEPPED ON IT AGAIN!
ボギッ
ゴルル
AS IT IS, OUR HORSES CANNOT MOVE STEADILY WE ARE STILL TOO FAR FROM WHERE WE SHOULD BE
DO NOT TROT!
HEY.. LOOK! THERE!
ドドドドド

THOSE LAID OUT HERE AREN'T ONLY OUR SOLDIERS
THERE'S ALSO THE CORPSES OF OUR ENEMIES, AS WELL AS THE HOOVES OF A SINGLE HORSE
KEEP AT THIS PACE JUST A LITTLE LONGER,
IT SEEMS WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON A PAVED ROAD SOON
ドドドドド

CAPTAIN BARKHORN... THAT MAN IS A TRUE WARRIOR

BRAVE SOLDIERS OF THE THIRD EASTERN HUSSAR REGIMENT,
STEP OVER THESE BODIES!
ハキ
DO YOU NOT WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH?

LET THE SOUNDS OF OUR MARCHING
MAKE ALL KNOW THE POWER OF OUR MAJESTY!
GO! RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

I WONDER IF I WILL HAVE A GOOD DREAM...

突撃！
そして今、新城の目に映るものは!?
オ
オ
オ
グ
オ
見ちゃだめ！
少年時代の新城が目にした凄惨な光景。
強大な兵力で迫る〈帝国〉軍!!
圧倒的不利な状況で新城らに勝機はあるのか――!?
真室大橋を防衛し、かつ大隊の損害を最低限にとどめるため、敵増援へ夜襲伏撃を展開する〈皇国〉軍！
新城率いる第二中隊は敵の真正面に位置。しかし、現れた敵増援は、予想を遥かに上回る旅団規模だった!! 圧倒的な〈帝国〉軍の兵力を前に下された決断は"作戦決行"！ 絶望的な戦闘が始まった――!!
皇国の守護者
原作：佐藤大輔（中央公論新社刊『皇国の守護者』より）
漫画：伊藤 悠
第弐巻
2005年秋、発売予定!!

# 皇国の守護者


■ 手伝ってくれた人々 ■

AKIRA　黒瀬浩介　前嶋重機

■ 感謝 ■

佐藤大輔　渡辺幸博（中央公論新社）

■ 編集 ■

井藤　涼

■ 単行本担当 ■

遠藤リエ

■ タイトルロゴ ■

伸童舎

■ 装丁 ■

LIGHTNING

「ウルトラジャンプ」平成16年7月号～平成16年12月号まで好評連載されたものを収録しました。

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translator **DiamondEdge**
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